FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PrEx 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-66

FBIS-MEA-78-66
Wednesday
5 April 1978
Vol V No 66

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

LD031355Y Paris L'HUMANITE in French 31 Mar 78 pp 1, 8 LD

[Dominique Bari 30 March interview in Beirut with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat]

[Excerpt] Question: What were the aims of the Israeli attack? Have the Tel Aviv leaders' objectives been achieved?

Answer: The aim of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon was, as Begin, General Gur and General Weizman themselves declared, and as was stated in the motion passed by the Knesset (Israeli parliament), to annihilate the PLO, the Palestinian people and the Palestinian resistance. This operation, which was planned over the past 6 months, was carried out with the consent of the American administration, as Secretary of State Cyrus Vance explained and as Kissinger recalled.

The Israelis used the most up-to-date American weapons, such as F-15's, fragmentation bombs, missile launchers (rockets, Lance missiles) and other destructive weapons which caused the deaths of hundreds of unarmed Palestinian and Lebanese civilians and destroyed entire villages and camps.

Seeing these murderous raids, this unequal fighting into which the full weight of the Israeli war machine has been thrown, I ask myself what has happened to the respect for human rights endlessly vaunted by President Carter.... The Israelis also used French weapons against us, such as Mirages, gunboats and underwater mines.

But has the attack's objective been achieved? The dogged 8-day resistance by the joint Palestinian and Lebanese progressive forces, standing alone against an army superior in both numbers and equipment, has destroyed the myth of the invincible Israeli army.

The Palestinian soldiers and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement can be proud of this resistance, which has been praised and supported by the Arab masses and by progressive forces all over the world...but the Imperialist, Zionist plot is not over.

Attempts to destroy the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement will continue to take place by other methods....

Question: What is the Palestinian resistance's attitude to and how has it welcomed the Security Council resolution stipulating the dispatch of "blue berets" to southern Lebanon? Do you not believe that the French troops will intervene more directly?

Answer: We understand the UN decision and why it voted Resolution 425 dispatching an international force to southern Lebanon. We have declared that, as far as possible, we will grant every facility to help these forces in their mission--which is to put an end to the Israeli army occupation.

Regarding the French troops' participating in the UN international forces in Lebanon, we will treat them with the same respect as the other contingents as long as they pursue the objectives laid down by the United Nations and do not interfere in the activities and presence of our military forces in Lebanon, which are governed by agreements concluded between ourselves and the Lebanese authorities and ratified by the two summits at Cairo and Riyadh....

Question: How do you envisage a settlement of the Middle East conflict for your people 30 years after the creation of Israel and 10 years after the occupation of the West Bank?

Answer: For 30 years the Palestinian people have lived under terrible conditions without identity and without any rights after being driven out of their fatherland. The Israeli-American plans could have proved successful and the Palestinian people could have been liquidated.

We have made use of our right of legitimate defense. This is a right enjoyed by all the oppressed and it has been recognized as such. The French people exercised this right against the Nazi occupier, and the Vietnamese people against the United States and the people in South Africa exercise it now.... The Palestinian people are fighting for a just cause, their right to self-determination, their right to return to their fatherland and their right to build an independent state on national soil.

The Jews have had the right to found a fatherland. Why are we Palestinians being denied this right? Are we not entitled to live free on the basis of elementary respect for human rights?

The American administration wonders how we could build an independent state.... My answer is that we have the biggest proportion of educated people in the region. I can see no solution to the Middle East problem as long as Israel pursues its expansionist policy.

Peace will be impossible in this region as long as the rights of the Palestinian people are ignored. We are a reality. We exist and this reality cannot be ignored.

There will be neither peace nor a solution as long as the Palestinian people cannot be independent and live on their own soil. By occupying southern Lebanon, American imperialism and the Zionists tried to deal us a fatal blow. They believed that a few hours would be enough to bring Palestinian resistance to an end. However, Mr Begin himself is faced with difficulties as a result and the attempt to liquidate the Palestinians has proved a failure.

During this new ordeal the Palestinian people have been able to realize that they are not alone. They have been supported by democrats throughout the world and have been helped by nonalined countries. We know that we have friends of whom we are proud. The French progressive forces can serve as a living and vital example of them.

MUHSIN PRAISES STRENGTH OF STEADFASTNESS FRONT

LD041545Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 31 Mar 78 p 18 LD

[Head of PLO Military Department Zuhayr Muhsin article]

[Excerpts] The recent large-scale aggression against southern Lebanon was a difficult and serious test for both the Palestinian revolution and the front of steadfastness and confrontation.

The aim of the enemy and of those who back him in this operation was to destroy the Palestinian revolution and the front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. This is in addition to other objectives such as liquidating the Lebanese national and progressive political presence, creating conditions suitable for exploding the Lebanese domestic crisis once again and involving the Lebanese, Palestinians, Syrians and all the Arabs in a whirlpool of strife, bloody sedition and ideological conflicts and disputes, as well as to exploit all this in the service of the Zionist enemy and the capitulatory plan.

In order to achieve such results, those behind this plan aroused the images that are still lurking in the minds of some--that the balances of power will be disturbed or in fact have been disturbed in their favor and that the U.S.-Zionist enemy is employing all his capabilities and resources in order to serve their ambitions and interests. We had often warned against this childish involvement in the game of major powers which are anxious to use others to serve their interests, and not vice versa.

By using his massive and superior military power the enemy sought to wipe out the revolution and the very idea of revolution. But by so doing he did no more than add yet another new experiment to the many similar imperialist experiments that have failed in the history of nations. A not too distant example was the large-scale French campaign against the Algerian revolution that led to a result quite contrary to what Jacques Soustelle and the fascist generals in the Third Republic expected and to speeding up the victory of the Algerian revolution and Algeria's attaining its national independence.

A few years earlier there was the experiment of the tripartite attack on the Suez Canal, which, although it achieved some military gains, produced political results quite to the contrary in that France and Britain had finally been ousted from the club of major powers and 'Abd an-Nasir emerged a giant national hero. Egypt, under his leadership, came to assume its number one leading role in the Arab area and Africa.

Shortly after that we recall as an example the escalation of the aggressive U.S. campaign against the people of South Vietnam and the mobilization by the United States of all the B-52 bombers in order to strike at North Vietnam and destroy its installations when the U.S. military strength in South Vietnam reached its peak. But the result of such intensive aggressive actions also did not break the rule because immediately afterward the United States was forced to negotiate with South Vietnam and to withdraw completely and finally from that area.

It is true that changes in public opinion trends in France, Britain and the United States played an important role in this regard, forcing the governments of those countries to retreat and to respect the will of peoples. But it is also true that the failure and losses that such aggressive campaigns suffered, because of the will to stand fast and to continue the national struggle, were the more important factor in the emergence and escalation of changes in public opinion in the countries concerned.

Just as the French, British, U.S. and similar imperialist campaigns failed to achieved their objective of crushing the revolutionary will and the peoples aspirations for liberation, so the recent Zionist campaign failed even worse in this regard. Instead, the Palestinian revolution emerged from this experiment with greater determination to continue the armed national struggle, greater capability to stand fast and tougher in facing challenges.

This experiment has entrenched and revived the will to fight and generated a new state of revolutionary popular uprising in all the circles of the Palestinian people. It also expanded solidarity with and sympathy for the Palestinian people's national struggle among all the nations and powers hostile to imperialism and the world's freedom and justice-loving peoples.

We would not be exaggerating to say that the Palestinian revolution was in need of this experiment in order to regain its self-confidence and the confidence of its masses and the Arab masses in it, to regain the world's respect for it and to disperse the atmosphere of despair and defeat which the Egyptian regime's antinational policy had created.

Recent events have taught us that nothing can teach steadfastness like steadfastness itself and nothing strengthens the resolve to fight like fighting itself. Steadfastness and the resolve to fight have been the primary condition in insuring the safety of the revolution and its ability to continue to develop and to march forward. The other condition is to insure the soundness and strength of the revolution's rear base and its strategic depth represented in the front of steadfastness and confrontation.

Therefore, we must point out here that the front of steadfastness has been able to prove its existence and to play a positive role in spite of everything. No one can ignore the fact that there were certain shortcomings, but shortcomings are something and failure is another.

The basic aim of Imperialism and Zionism, and their tools, is to break this front and bury it before it matures and becomes strong. The whispering doubts to which the front was subjected during the fighting, whether by the emotional reactions of shortsighted or impatient people, or whether they were the result of evil intentions or good intentions, are all to be blamed on the Egyptian policy because of the sense of despair and defeat and the loss of self-confidence and confidence in the ally and the friend.

None of the leaders of the front of steadfastness and confrontation claimed that 3 months after its birth the front would be able to work miracles or enter into a large-scale confrontation with the enemy and defeat him militarily. This was not required of the front in the first stages of its life. Rather, its primary task at present is to do away with the atmosphere of defeatism and abort the attempts to spread such an atmosphere. What is required now is to oppose the atmosphere of surrender, abort the policies of the [As-Sadat] visit, strengthen the ability to adopt sound stands and the commitment to provide the material requirements necessary for translating the policy of steadfastness to military defense ability and, subsequently, to move to the next stage--namely, to liberate the land and wrest our rights from the enemy's hands within the shortest possible time, but this period must not be calculated in terms of weeks or months.

The principal objectives and purposes of the campaign were to force the countries of steadfastness to dissolve the front. But the front of steadfastness was aware of this and, therefore, proved that it was stronger and more cohesive than the doubting ones and those who spread doubts imagined when it insisted on refusing in form and in substance all kinds of calls and initiatives to meet with Cairo under any pretext. The front has now passed the difficult test without falling into the trap of surrender and defeatism or of responding to emotional and provocative demands, and thus gambling with its existence and placing its destiny and ours at risk.

The front of steadfastness and confrontation has emerged stronger, more cohesive and with greater ability to shoulder national responsibilities and front challenges, thus creating the other basic condition for the safety and continuity of the Palestinian revolution and the steadfastness and triumph of the national line in Lebanon and the Arab area.

OPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING TO CONVENE IN SAUDI ARABIA

JN050943Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 5 April--The Saudi newspaper AR-RIYAD reports today that it has been decided to hold the OPEC emergency ministerial meeting in Saudi Arabia on 1 May to discuss a number of outstanding topics and to review the latest situation of the dollar. Kuwait had called for holding this meeting in Geneva on Monday to discuss the dterioration of the dollar and its connection with the prices of oil in the area.

SOME OPEC STATES REPORTEDLY LOWER OIL PRICES

TA031815Y Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 3 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Nicosia, April 3 (AFP)--The weekly MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY today affirmed that Algeria, Libya and Nigeria have decided to lower prices for their main qualities of crude oil by 15 to 23 U.S. cents a barrel in the second quarter beginning, April 1.

The weekly said the move was intended to counter competition from North Sea oil producers who were seeking to put pressure on the price levels set by OPEC (Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries) by raising their output. North Sea output was at 1.3 million barrels per day in January, MEES said.

The weekly, published in Nicosia, said the three main African oil producers were believed to have made a joint decision to cut their prices during recent consultations in London. MEES said, however, that the reductions were not big enough to have any significant impact on the exports of the three African member countries of OPEC. It recalled that Nigeria and Libya had reduced their crude output during the first quarter of the year.

According to MEES, Algeria has implemented a 15 cent cut-back on the prices of its "Saharan blend" crude, now at 14.10 dollars a barrel, and its "Zarzaitine," now at 14.05 dollars. Nigeria, it said, had reduced the price of its main crudes by 21 to 23 cents a barrel. Libya had still not announced new prices, but was expected to reduce those of its light crudes by 15 cents a barrel.

PLO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS

JN051059Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0955 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 5 April--Sa'id Kamal, deputy head of the PLO Political Department, has disclosed that his presence at the Arab League meetings which took place recently in Cairo was at the instructions of Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH published today, Kamal said that the states of steadfastness had committed a mistake by not attending these meetings because the Arab League belongs to all the Arabs.

On the other hand, Fatah leader Salah Khalf, alias Abu Iyad, expressed the conviction that the presence of the UN troops in southern Lebanon has a political goal exceeding the task of these troops. In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, Abu Iyad said that the Palestinian resistance will be forced to strike at the UN troops if these troops strike at the resistance. The paper quotes Abu Iyad as saying that the official stands of the Arab countries toward the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon are insufficient both on the political level and regarding financial aid to the Palestinian resistance and the joint forces.

HABASH SAYS FIGHTING TO CONTINUE UNTIL LIBERATION

JN0419057 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 April--Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said that the Palestinian revolution will not accept the UN forces if they have come to act as a barrier between it and the fighting against the Zionist enemy. In a statement to the Baghdad television service broadcast here this evening, Habash added that the Palestinian revolution will continue to fight the enemy. We will find ourselves forced to clash with any local, Arab or international force which stands against this, he said.

Dr George Habash pointed out that the reactionary forces are using the UN forces to hide behind. The Palestinian revolution will not stop fighting until total liberation of the Palestinian soil is achieved. Dr Habash affirmed that the legitimacy which supersedes all others is that of the Palestinian people's struggle against Zionist occupation.

MENA REPORTS ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

NC0414007 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 April--MENA has learned that an Arab solidarity committee will be formed. It will be composed of Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and the Arab League secretary general. MENA has also learned that there is support for the idea of forming this committee at the level of the heads of governments of these states. However, this matter ultimately depends on the contacts Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri is now holding with the Arab governments concerning the formation of this committee and its level. It is expected that the formation of this committee will be completed around the beginning of next week.

Immediately after its formation, the solidarity committee--which will be chaired by Sudan in the latter's capacity as the chairman of the present Arab League session--will visit a number of Arab states to try to iron out inter-Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity. At its meetings last week at the level of Arab foreign ministers, the Arab League Council decided to assign President Ja'far Numayri the task of forming the Arab solidarity committee.

SOVIET GENERAL SAID TO SECRETLY VISIT GULF STATE

LD0319287 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWLI in Arabic 1 Apr 78 p 5 LD

[Excerpt] AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DAWLI has learned from well-informed gulf sources that the Soviet General Kolyakov--who is in charge of military operations in the Horn of Africa--paid a secret visit at the end of March to a gulf state and held prolonged talks with its rulers.

The purpose of the visit was to inform the gulf state in question that the Soviet Union is prepared to help it with all its means, whether directly or through the PDRY, in its dispute with the Sultanate of Oman.

KUWAIT

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING RITHAUDDEEN VISIT

LD041300Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Apr 78 LD

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry at the end of the visit by Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, the Malaysian foreign minister, to Kuwait]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate the merciful; at the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Ahmad al-Jabir, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, the Malaysian foreign minister, paid a visit to Kuwait at the head of an official delegation, from 1 to 4 April.

The visiting minister was received by his highness the amir of Kuwait and by the prime minister. He saw a number of Kuwaiti Government officials. At the official talks, the Malaysian side was led by Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, and the Kuwaiti side by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

The cordial relations between the two countries and the means of developing them were discussed. The two sides reviewed international problems of common interest. In the field of bilateral relations, the two sides noted the continuing development of these relations. They expressed their satisfaction that the agreements for economic, technical, cultural and scientific cooperation signed by the two countries have come into effect.

The Malaysian side expressed its thanks for the effective contribution made by the Kuwait Fund for Economic Growth to several Malaysian projects. They explained a number of future projects which the Kuwaiti fund promised to consider with a view to participating in them.

A joint committee was formed, including a number of experts from both countries, which discussed possibilities for cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific and social spheres. It was agreed that a group of Kuwaiti experts would visit Malaysia to continue discussing the possibilities of further cooperation in order to serve the interests of their fraternal countries.

The visiting minister and his delegation expressed their thanks and appreciation for the hospitality extended to them during their visit and for its positive outcome.

IRAQI, KUWAITI MINISTERS DISCUSS COOPERATION

JN031338Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 3 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 3 April--Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi met here today with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-'Ali and discussed with him the prospects of information cooperation between the two fraternal countries. Hammudi arrived in Kuwait earlier today on his way home after attending the inauguration of the GULF NEWS AGENCY in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, day before yesterday.

Hammudi said that his visit to Bahrain was a good opportunity to participate with the brother information ministers of the gulf states in opening the GULF NEWS AGENCY, which reflects the extent of information cooperation and coordination in (?all fields).

SAUDI ARABIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON AFGAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

LD041416Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Apr 78 LD

[Text] A joint communique has been published on the visit of His Excellency President Mohammad Daud, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his talks with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The following is the text of the communique:

In response to an invitation from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency President Mohammad Daud, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 2 to 4 April 1978.

His excellency and the delegation which accompanied him were given a warm welcome in which the fraternal Islamic spirit linking the people of the two fraternal countries was manifest. The two sides held talks which were characterized by a spirit of friendship and solidarity. They dealt with bilateral relations and also with the situation in the Islamic and Arab worlds. They also discussed the international situation in general and development in their two areas in particular.

Taking part in these talks on the Saudi side were His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2nd deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Dr Rashad Fir'awn, private adviser of his majesty the king; His Excellency Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abd al-Wasi, minister of pilgrimage affairs and AWQAF; and Abdallah Hababi, Saudi ambassador to Afghanistan.

Taking part on the Afgan side were Wafiyyollah Sam'i, justice minister; Mohammad Khan Jalallar, minister of commerce; Wahid Abdollah, foreign minister; (Abdossamad Ghaws), undersecretary to the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs; Mohammad Yusuf Mehrdil, Afgan ambassador to Saudi Arabia; Mohammad (Sediq Saljoqi), director of the Second Division at the Foreign Ministry; Mohammad (Mirza Samah), director of the Administration for International and Economic Affairs; (Abdol Ahad Ziai), director of information; and Mohammad (Zia Yusof), director of research.

The two leaders expressed complete satisfaction with the steady growth in relations between their two countries, and they affirmed their resolution to develop cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The two leaders expressed the need to make efforts for the sake of strengthening solidarity and unity among Islamic states on the basis of the reality of the common faith and noble teachings of Islam.

The two leaders affirmed their respect for the UN Charter, which calls for the development of international relations and safeguarding of international peace and stability by adhering to its principles and aims in organizing relations between states.

The two sides agreed that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East problem and that it is not possible to arrive at a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem except on the basis of full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, and also recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to return to their homeland.

They also expressed their condemnation of the continuing Israeli aggression against the people of Palestine and the Arab people and they condemned the operations of extermination it is carrying out in southern Lebanon and the killing of innocent people and the destruction of property. They appealed to the various governments and international society to take the necessary steps to implement the Security Council resolution which calls for Israeli withdrawal in the quickest way possible and for Israel to cease its continuous attacks.

The two sides expressed concern about the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel and the racist regime in South Africa and about the cooperation between these two governments in this connection--something that constitutes a danger to peace and security in the Middle East, Africa and the entire world. Accordingly, the two sides appeal to the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament to shoulder the responsibility of these issues concerning the spread of nuclear weapons.

The two sides affirmed their belief that solidarity among the nonalined states is necessary in order to realize the aims of the movement for establishing peace and understanding among nations. They affirmed the need to make efforts to safeguard the existence of the nonalined movement and to avoid deviating from its basic aims. The two leaders realize that the forthcoming conference of the nonalined bureau, to be held in Kabul by the foreign ministers of member states from 6 to 10 May 1978, will provide a useful and [word indistinct] opportunity for the nonalined movement to strengthen its unity and solidarity for the development of international cooperation.

The two sides also supported the struggle of the African people in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa for their lawful right, and they strongly condemned the regimes of racial segregation in Africa and everywhere in the world. The two leaders reviewed with utmost concern the current conflict in the Horn of Africa. They believe that the continuation of the conflict will lead to an increase in the rivalry of the great powers in the area. They delcared that a peaceful solution to the issue lies in the framework of the OAU on the basis of self-determination for the people of Ogaden.

The two leaders also reviewed the international economic situation and the extent of its direct effect on the developing states. They appealed to the advanced states to establish their economic relations with developing countries on equal and just bases for the sake of achieving a new economic system. They also reviewed the special issues and the needs of developing countries which have no outlets to the sea and resulting from their geographic position, and they expressed their desire to implement all measures taken at international conferences and organizations without delay, particularly those which concern transport and transit questions. The two sides expressed their support for general and comprehensive disarmament, particularly with regard to nuclear weapons.

They expressed the hope that the forthcoming session on disarmament will adopt a resolution to halt the arms race and prevent the spread of nuclear and conventional weapons. They hope that the nonalined states will play an effective role in this (?session).

His excellency President Mohammad Daud explained to His Majesty King Khalid the developments in his area and described the steps taken to improve Afgan-Pakistani relations in the interest of the two countries and the area. His Majesty King Khalid welcomed the positive developments in the relations between the two Moslem countries.

The Saudi side expressed readiness to study some of the development projects in Afghanistan with a view to taking part in some of these projects. His Excellency President Mohammad Daud expressed gratitude for the great welcome and hospitality accorded him and the delegation accompanying him. He extended an invitation to his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, to visit Afghanistan. They accepted this invitation with thanks and expressed their hope of fixing its date at a later time.

UAE

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR VISIT TO OMAN

LD021352Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and the ruler of Dubai, Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, left Abu Dhabi today for the Sultanate of Oman on an official 1-day visit. Abu Dhabi radio said that Shaykh Rashid will have important talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id about matters of mutual interest and means of reinforcing fraternal links between the two sister states.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM COMMENTS ON SOVIET EFFORTS IN SOMALIA

LD041714Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 1 Apr 78 p 6 LD

[Nabil Fahmi report from Somalia]

[Excerpts] The struggle in the Horn of Africa is still continuing. Despite the withdrawal of the Somali forces from western Somalia and the West's welcome of the withdrawal, the struggle is not yet over. The Soviet Union has not yet achieved its ambitions. This struggle indeed is strange and terrible in terms of detente between the two superpowers.

A Somali official said that the two superpowers have for the first time agreed on one thing--the defeat of Somalia--despite their different views and stands.

This situation has led to Somalia's standing at a crossroad between the two superpowers. Will it go back once again to the lap of the Soviet Union or will the West overcome its slowness of action and hasten to make a decision that would satisfy the Somalis? This is the question that is being asked now, particularly at a time when the Soviet Union is intensively active through the Soviet ambassador to Somalia, whom President Siad Barre has met with more than five times. The United States had sent its assistant secretary of state for African affairs to meet with Siad Barre.

For this reason we believe that the Soviets are still hoping to return to Somalia once again, that their presence this time will be even stronger than before and that they still have the opportunity to do so. It has not been very long since the treaty of friendship was abrogated. Soviet principles and slogans are still being reiterated by some Somalis. In fact, the Soviet allies inside Somalia are now playing a more active role at a time when the West is still hesitating to make a decision.

A Somali official told me that the United States has not played its role as it should have but, instead, has adopted a two-faced stand. Therefore, the official said, it has been proved that Somalia's primary enemy is the United States and that, despite the fact that the Soviets stood with Ethiopia, Somalia respects them as a superpower because they did exactly what they said they would. The Somali people are frustrated and bitter because of the attitude of the West and the United States in particular. This has left Somalia with one choice, namely, to return to the Soviets.

The official added: If the West is still dreaming of returning to Ethiopia by hoping for an expulsion of the Soviets as they were expelled from Egypt and Sudan and by hoping that the Soviet Union will not be able to solve Ethiopia's problems, then their dreams are in vain. The Soviets see Ethiopia as the most fertile place for applying socialism in the area. The conditions of Ethiopia now are similar to those of the Soviet Union in 1917.

Therefore, the big question which is now being asked in the Somalia area and is being reiterated by many is: What direction will Somalia take and on whom will Somalia rely in the future? Will Somalia review its relations with the Soviets or will it continue its contacts with the West? Nobody can give a specific answer to this question so far because the matter depends on how much understanding the West will show toward the conditions Somalia is suffering from.

However, we find that the Somali information media have begun depicting the Soviet Union as a nation deserving respect. Words harmful to the Soviet Union have disappeared. A local paper published the story of an old Somali lady whom the Ethiopians tried to kill but were prevented from doing so by Soviet soldiers who saved the old woman's life.

Also it is being reiterated that the Soviets saved the Somali from being destroyed and allowed the Somalis to withdraw from western Somalia safely.

It is for this reason that some observers believe that the Soviets now have the opportunity to return to Somalia by exploiting the mistakes of the West. Moreover, the Soviet Union is in a position to put pressure on Ethiopia for the partial achievement of the Somalis' dreams. This could be used by the Somali leadership as a justification before the people for the return of the Soviets.

Despite the fact that the road to Somalia has become open to the Soviet Union, it is still facing certain difficulties, which include the following:

1. So far Siad Barre has not completely lost hope in the West.

2. The Somali people strongly hate the Soviets.

3. Confidence has been lost between the Russians and President Siad Barre. He told a foreign diplomat that he does not like the Russians at all. The Russians, too, do not like him. This would make their return a threat to the Somali regime.

The coming days will show the world which direction Somalia will take. Will it go back to Moscow's lap and be once again swallowed by it because of the West's mistakes in the recent conflict?

The conflict between the two superpowers in this area is not yet over, and it has not been determined who is the winner or the loser and whether this conflict will lead to more bloody incidents whose price will be paid by the underdog countries which the two superpowers use as pawns in the chess game of spheres of influence.

These are questions and the answers to them will determine the world's political map at the beginning of the 21st century.

SECURITY COURTS ACQUIT LEFTISTS, COMMUNISTS

LD031525Y Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 29 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] The Supreme State Security Court in Cairo headed by counselor Hakim Munir, decided at its session last Monday to release Hamzah al-'Adawi, member of the Cairo secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] party, who was held in custody in the case of the January 1977 incidents. He will be released within 15 days if the president of the republic does not object to his release. The president has twice objected to the State Security Department's decision to release Al-'Adawi, the only NPUG member still imprisoned since the January incidents. The court decided to release two of those accused in the case of secret organizations. These are Majidah 'Ali and 'Umar 'Abd al-Muhsin, students of 'Ayn Shams University.

The Supreme State Security Court headed by counselor Yunis Thabit decided to release Khalid Yusuf--a police constable--and university students Ramah As'ad, Jamal Sidqi and Khalid Idris. The State Security Investigation arrested them on the charge of distributing leaflets in Misr al-Jadidah criticizing the policy of direct negotiations with Israel and President as-Sadat's visit to it.

The Supreme State Security Court headed by counselor Shakir Turki and made up of counselors Anwar Jamal and Ahmad Rifa'i acquitted Mahmud Shukri of the charge of belonging to a clandestine communist party and distributing leaflets in March 1978.

The Supreme State Security Court in Alexandria ordered the unconditional release of engineer Muhammad Hamid al-Lasi, head of research and development in the National Paper Company and member of the NPUG committee in Alexandria, who was arrested in February on charges of belonging to a clandestine organization.

JARIDAT MISR SCORES 'MARXIST COMMAND' OF LEFTISTS

LD031530Y Cairo JARID MISR in Arabic 28 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed article]

[Excerpts] Apparently the Marxist command of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping party insists on being the sincere and loyal echo of what the Marxist tsars of the Kremlin say and want.

It also appears that this Marxist command finds no harm or embarrassment in accusing others of lacking in ethics, of deviation, of national treason, of revolutionary cowardness and of capitulation.

In fact, the Marxist command of the NPUG party will not remain quiet or be satisfied unless Moslem Egypt once again goes back to the lap of the Russian Communist bear.

And because we are simple peasants and do not understand the question of revolutionary "intelligibility," the Marxist theory, the dialectic complex and the radical contradiction we can only hope to understand what the party's Marxist command says.

In the party's paper [AL-AHALI] the Marxist command blames Egypt for failing to go to Lebanon and fight there, while it supported Somalia. The paper then goes on to review the history of the Marxist struggle beginning with the closure of the progressive AT-TALI'AH magazine and the acquittal of the progressive Egyptian left in the case of the uprising of the "masses" on 18 and 19 January.

This Marxist command accuses this paper of being a professional liar.

What do you think of the high ethics of this paper, which claims to speak on behalf of the honorable and pure?

We will not accuse the Marxist command of lying because we are above doing so and because we believe that the dictionary of abuse has become old, obsolescent and unacceptable. What matters indeed is that we must prove that we do not lie in words or in deeds. We will not defend ourselves or the honest writers that contribute to this paper against whom the paper's charge of being "professional liars" necessarily applies.

We would tell this newspaper that we would be glad when you become ethically better in your words and behavior so that we can discuss what your writers say.

You have considered Egypt a capitalutatory state seeking to liquidate national interest by standing against fanatic Ethiopia, which your Soviet and Cuban comrades help. What is wrong with this? Did you want us to join communist Yemen, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and Colonel Mengistu so that you become pleased with Egypt. Or did you wish General Siad Barre to be punished because of his mutiny against the gods of the Kremlin by expelling the Russian experts and abrogating the Soviet treaty of friendship?

You have considered Egypt a capitulatory, liquidationist and imperialist state rotating in the U.S. orbit. If so, why do you blame it for not intervening in Lebanon?

Have you forgotten that there is a vast and rich front, heavily armed and called the rejection front or, rather, the front of steadfastness and confrontation?

What has the revolutionary and struggling front done? Has it dispatched the 4,000 "volunteers" which you talked about, or will the brave strugglers send large armies to help the Palestinian brothers in the new war of "attrition?"

Finally, we would tell the organ of the NGUP party that we wish the party's Marxist command continues "red truthfulness" and greater revolutionary loyalty to Moscow Radio, TASS and the "front of steadfastness and confrontation."

JOURNALIST CRITICIZES ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCES

NC020758Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Apr 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Regarding the dimensions of the current Arab situation, Ahmad Baha' ad-Din has written an article headlined "The Summit Conferences Have Become a Smokescreen."

Criticizing the general Arab situation, Ahmad Baha' ad-Din points out that the Arab summit conferences, whether limited or comprehensive, have become an insult to us citizens. It is true that the first conferences were full of hope and some of them produced some results. But how can several Arab governments get involved in the most violent disputes, exchange the sharpest accusations and shed Arab blood profusely and then convene a meeting of Arab leaders and after a few hours of talks, picture taking and exchanging of kisses, the people are informed that the disputes have ended and everything has returned to normal?

The writer stresses that this situation can only be an insult to Arab intelligence. If the dispute is not so serious, why has its solution been delayed all this time? If the dispute is so profound, who will believe that it can be solved in a few hours and will not recur? Therefore, the Arab citizen can no longer have confidence in summit conferences. He considers them at best as tranquilizers like aspirins and not a treatment for any disease. The proof is that the symptoms of Arab sickness often reappear on the first occasion--our appreciation for all leaders of good will, of course, notwithstanding.

AL-BAKR GRANTS INTERVIEW TO MAGAZINE HURRAS AL-WATAN

JN0415462Y Baghdad Voice of The Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text of the statement given by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to the magazine HURRAS AL-WATAN issued today on the 31st anniversary of the establishment of the Ba'th Party]

[Text] The Arab nation, which is distinquished for its strong character and generosity and which has always been the source of culture, science and immense knowledge for humanity, has also suffered, during its long history, from numerous attempts against its very existence and against its distinguished characteristics to prevent it from contributing actively to the march of progress and development witnessed by the various nations of the world. These attempts have failed to annihilate the image of struggle of the Arab nation and can not harm the conscience of the Arab masses, who continue to vitally express the genuine spirit of the nation and its constant alertness. These attempts, however, succeeded in creating the state of cultural decadence of the nation which led to the division of the Arab world, to its backwardness and to the control of its resources by the imperialists. The long suffering of the nation led to the birth of its hope, represented by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which raised high the beacon of Arab renaissance and the banner of the struggle. Thus, the party attracted the toiling Arab masses, who found in the party's thought a scientific and revolutionary embodiment of their national and social hopes and aspirations. The aims of the party in unity, freedom and socialism were the aims of all the Arabs who, weathered the storms of the struggle with great faith in the truth and realism of these aims. The masses had been so inspired that they defied death and courted martydom. Thus, a mammoth sea of workers, peasants, soldiers and revolutionary intellectuals was created and faced the enemies of the nation, including the imperialists, Zionists, exploiters and reactionaries.

Since I am now directing my statement to the magazine HURRAS AL-WATAN, I would like to note with appreciation and pride the role of the revolutionaries from our armed forces side by side with their brothers the workers, peasants and students during our people's battles. These revolutionaries have expressed the profound ties which bind them to their people and nation. The courageous stands of the army on the national and pan-Arab levels have been great deeds which have affirmed the high values of the revolutionary spirit in achieving victories and overcoming temporary failures and setbacks.

During this difficult stage in the life of the Arab nation, where we find the forces of evil plotting against it from various sides. You find that your revolution in this struggling country is standing firm as a bastion of steadfastness and liberation and a bright beacon which gives hope and optimism to every spot of our great Arab nation. Thirty-one years of sacrifice and difficult struggle, despite their length, will seem very short if we compare them with the greater sacrifices which our nation expects from us until our full aims in unity, freedom and socialism are achieved.

SIGNING OF IRAQI-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY COMMEMORATED

JN0420019Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1604 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 April--Iraq and the Soviet Union tomorrow celebrate the sixth anniversary of the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries. This celebration comes at a time when the relations between them are developing and expanding in light of the principles of mutual benefit and of the joint interests of the two peoples.

The signing of the treaty was an affirmation by the two countries of the development and growth of the relations of struggle which are opposed to imperialism, Zionism and reaction. This treaty comes within the framework of support for the movements of national liberation in the world, particularly the legitimate struggle of the Arab people of Palestine to restore their usurped rights. The political statement of the eighth regional conference of the Ba'th Party outlined the strategic dimensions of Iraqi-Soviet relations in particular, and relations between Iraq and the socialist countries in general. The statement pointed out that there is a similarity of principles between the Arab liberation movement, of which we form a part, and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The joint interests of Iraq and these countries have necessitated the establishment of wide-ranging cooperation between them and the elevation of their relations to a level of strategic alliance, while preserving the distinguishing characteristics of our Arab revolution, its independence and free will. Hence, the Ba'th Party views the alliance with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries as a strategic alliance to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance. Through this view the relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union have grown in various fields. The 6 years following the signing of the treaty have witnessed numerous forms and formulas for cooperation in various fields.

The signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation was the climax of the growing cooperation between the two countries, which began with the 17 July 1968 Revolution and have continued triumphantly under the leadership of the Ba'th Party. The visits exchanged by the leaders of the two countries have been instrumental in promoting cooperation in various fields.

On 14 September 1972 President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr paid an official visit to the Soviet Union, during which he held talks with the Soviet leaders on cooperation between the two countries and the Arab situation. Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, during the period from 1972 to 1977, paid four official visits to the Soviet Union, the most important of which was the one he paid early last year when he held talks with the Soviet leaders on bilateral relations, international issues and the socialist experiment in both countries. Likewise, Aleksey Kosygin, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, paid two official visits to Iraq. During the last visit he attended the signing of the technical and economic cooperation and development agreement between the two countries. On 8 January this year a protocol for scientific cooperation between the two countries was signed. The protocol stipulated the exchange of experts, the organization of scientific research and the participation of scientists from the two countries in the conferences and symposiums held in each country. On 16 March Iraq and the Soviet Union signed the minutes which define the bases and means to promote trade relations between them through the export of Iraqi dates, cigarettes, crude oil, wool and hides to the Soviet Union and the import by Iraq of Soviet machines, tools and spare parts from the Soviet Union.

Relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union are growing steadily 6 years after the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty. These relations are based on the firm background of joint strategy and on the joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism aimed at achieving the goal of mutual benefit for the two countries and for the two friendly peoples.

GENERAL SIILASVUO ARRIVES IN BEIRUT FOR TALKS

JN041042Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1012 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 April--Gen Siilasvuo, commander of the UN emergency forces in the Middle East, this morning arrived in Beirut from occupied Jerusalem in the company of two UN officers for a short visit to Lebanon. During his visit, which is the third to Beirut since the UN Security Council resolution on southern Lebanon, General Siilasvuo will have talks on facilitating implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and the stationing of UN troops in southern Lebanon.

Meets With Butrus

NC041350Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Foreign and Defense Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus today held a meeting with the commander of the UN peace-keeping forces in the Middle East, Gen Enzio Siilasvuo, in the presence of Army Commander Brig Gen Victor Khuri. The discussions centered on the stationing of UN forces in southern Lebanon.

Siilasvuo had arrived in Lebanon earlier today on a short visit. His arrival came in the wake of reports that Israel has begun a major thinning out of its forces in southern Lebanon in accordance with a timetable which is being arranged with General Siilasvuo. UN sources have said that about 150 members of the Norwegian detachment of the UN force began taking up positions on the Al-Khardali Bridge over the Litani River yesterday.

The Norwegians will replace the Swedish forces, who might return to their former posts with the UN emergency force in Sinai. A Nepalese contingent is expected to arrive soon to supervise the Al-Qasimiyah Bridge area over the Litani River.

Comments on Meeting

NC041644Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus today met with the commander of the UN emergency forces, General Siilasvuo. Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and senior officers also attended. Discussions were held on the location points of the UN forces in the south and ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

After the meeting General Siilasvuo said that a number of topics were discussed, but that most of these centered on two points: the current location of the UN emergency forces and the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Within this framework, General Siilasvuo continued, we discussed the entry of the Lebanese gendarmerie into the area where the UN forces are located and the deployment of Lebanese Army units in the south. Concerning the date of the entry of the Lebanese Army into the south, General Siilasvuo said: No final date has been set. However, it was agreed that Lebanese forces should be deployed there as soon as possible. On the date of the gendarmerie deployment in the south, he said: The gendarmerie forces will begin their work in cooperation with UN forces as of today.

On his plan to turn the UN emergency forces into deterrent forces, General Siilasvuo said: I have not received anything official in this regard.

Butrus Comments

NC042004Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus has said that the contacts being held to implement the UN Security Council resolution and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces are productive. He added that it is natural for people to feel that the process is going slowly. However, the matter is not so easy as some people would like to imagine, considering the preparations needed for its implementation. Therefore, an agreement on certain details was indispensable before the implementation phase could be reached.

Minister Butrus said his meeting with [the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East], Siilasvuo, today was a sign of marked progress compared with what has happened to date; there are several policy and procedural matters under consideration.

In reply to a question, he said: General Siilasvuo did not present me with a program for the Israeli withdrawal in the correct sense of the word, and I hope that he will be able to formulate such a plan in the near future, perhaps by our next meeting.

Regarding the government's position on discussion of the Palestinian problem in the Chamber of Deputies, Minister Butrus said: Any discussion which takes place in a frank atmosphere and which seeks to unify positions and goals can only be supported by the government. On this particular matter, however, it is essential that we lay a firm groundwork for these meetings through preparatory contacts.

Asked whether the obstacles for the deployment of the UN forces have been removed, the foreign minister said: The task of the UN forces, the current situation in Lebanon and everything else have made it certain that the UN forces would unavoidably encounter some obstacles. What is important, however, is that overcoming the obstacles should take precedence.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution, Minister Butrus said: The UN Security Council resolutions have not yet been implemented in the south, but they are being implemented, and I am not pessimistic. These resolutions must be implemented, because the ability of the United Nations to impose peaceful solutions in the world is being tested, as is the Lebanese ability to continue to exist as a country.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH SYRIAN PARTY LEADER

JN041155Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this morning met with a delegation of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party led by party leader Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adah.

CHAMBER SPEAKER AL-AS'AD MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC041420Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Richard Parker, has informed Speaker Kamil al-As'ad that Israel will withdraw from southern Lebanon according to a fixed timetable. Parker, who met with Al-As'ad at the request of the latter, said they discussed the situation in the south in detail. He denied that there are U.S. guarantees regarding the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution on Lebanon.

WALID JUNBLATT COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN SOUTH

JN0509102Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 April--Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, has stated that the Zionist enemy will not withdraw from southern Lebanon until it has guarantees that the Palestinians will not return to the south and until the south is given to the rightists.

He added: Thus the struggle against the Zionist occupation forces will continue. Junblatt expects that the rightists will increase their pressure on the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement after their positions have been reinforced by the Zionist occupation forces. This is contained in an interview Junblatt granted to the weekly AL'F BA' magazine.

Walid Junblatt highly valued Iraq's various aid to the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance in defending southern Lebanon. He said: This aid is significant and strengthens our steadfastness in the face of the treacherous Zionist aggression.

Commenting on reports regarding the possibility of conducting a dialog with the rightist forces, Junblatt said: We have been and still are prepared to hold this dialog but not at the expense of the Palestinians' right to regain their homeland. He said: We reject any dialog that would mean disarming the Palestinians. We also reject the theories about the distribution of the Palestinian people in the Arab countries. He said this is aimed at wiping out the honorable struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their rights in their homeland.

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL CALLS ON PALESTINIANS TO LEAVE

LD042109 [Editorial report LD] Paris Domestic Service in French at 1820 GMT on 4 April carries a 35-minute live interview granted to France Inter correspondent Yves Loiseau by Bashir al-Jumayyil, member of the Lebanese Christian phalangist movement, in French, by phone, from Beirut, for the program "The Phone Is Ringing."

Yves Loiseau begins by summarizing the current situation in Beirut and then asks Mr al-Jumayyil whether there is collaboration between the Lebanese Christians and the Israeli armed forces.

Al-Jumayyil replies: "There is no collaboration whatsoever. The Lebanese population, Christian and Moslem, is trapped between two enemies--an Israeli army in the south and a Palestinian enemy in the north--any by the sea." "The people in the south had no choice but to withdraw to survive. If you call that collaboration, then, OK, we collaborated. We say this was the lesser of the two evils. The people of the south decided this without referring to their command in the north, because it was they who were receiving the blows."

Asked whether this situation is likely to continue, Al-Jumayyil replies: "This depends on the Palestinians." "If they wish to bring the situation back to normal, they have only to evacuate the south and allow a free flow of people and goods between the north and the south."

In response to a question as to whether a day similar to the famous black September in 1970 in Jordan is likely to dawn, Al-Jamayyil replies that this depends on the Palestinians. "It is up to the Palestinians to draw the lessons from black September in Jordan.

We are no longer disposed to allow a Palestinian presence in Lebanon, a small country of 10,000 square km, with a population of 2.5 million, which includes more than half a million Palestinians, while other Arab countries are returned 10 and 15 times larger than we are with a relatively smaller population, and a greater wealth--black gold.

Al-Jumayyil goes on to say that the main problem in Lebanon is lack of authority and an army. He says other Arab countries must respect Lebanese sovereignty. Al-Jumayyil says he would consider a federation of Christians and Moslems, but the Palestinians have no right to participate. Al-Jumayyil concludes by saying that the only solution is for the Palestinians to leave Lebanon.

ISLAMIC GROUPING, FRONT FOR SOUTH ISSUE STATEMENT

NC042209Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Islamic Grouping and the national front for safeguarding southern Lebanon held a joint meeting tonight at the office of Dr Nasib al-Barbir to review the latest developments in the south. At the end of the meeting, in the presence of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni and Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, Lawyer Shafiq al-Wazzan made the following statement:

At the joint meeting held by the Islamic Grouping and the national front for safeguarding southern Lebanon, the conferees reviewed the current developments regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. They also reviewed the results of contacts held by some members. The conferees noted the Israeli procrastination in withdrawal, its pretexts for continuing the occupation and the subsequent complications which are not in the interests of the Lebanese, Palestinians and Arabs. The serious nature of this prompts us to view the situation within the context of high national interests, the foremost of which is preserving Lebanon as an entity and the integrity of its people, territory and sovereignty.

The conferees unanimously decided:

1. To demand the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and for ending the occupation immediately, and to demand all concerned to facilitate the UN forces' task in implementing this resolution;

2. To demand that the authority of the state be applied in the south and throughout Lebanese territory;

3. To demand the rapid rebuilding of the Lebanese Army on sound foundations which will promote the confidence of all Lebanese in the effectiveness of the army;

4. To continue the present contacts in this respect and to review the results at the next meeting.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT

JN0421S4Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2044 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Beirut, 4 April--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has stated that Israel is implementing a political plan to entrench its occupation of territories in southern Lebanon.

In a statement issued following the meeting of the Central Political Council of the movement, which convened here this evening, the movement added that the story of starting to reduce Zionist forces in certain occupied areas is intended only to absorb the demands for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied Lebanese territories by local, Arab and international parties. The statement further says that this policy also aims at imposing Israel's control of the south as a de facto situation through the presence of its army or through its local tools, such as Sa'd Haddad.

The statement describes the position adopted by the [Lebanese] authorities as a [word indistinct] in very dangerous policies having a great impact on our national struggle with the Zionist enemy. The statement further says that the reopening of the so-called Palestinian file, called for by certain parties led by the Lebanese front, is what Israel wants, for Israel is seeking to link its occupation with local Lebanese political events. The statement says the opening of an internal battle will not lead to the liquidation of the Palestinian or patriotic presence. Its result would be to throw the country into the whirlpool of civil war, thus giving the Zionist enemy an opportunity to impose its control [words indistinct].

The Central Political Council considers the decision by the authorities to send Lebanese security forces to the territories under occupation by the Zionist enemy a very dangerous measure threatening our national battle with the enemy at its roots. The movement stresses its decision to confront firmly the attempt to diffuse [tamyi'] the issue of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon, regardless of the sources which are working for that purpose, because by doing so it will be waging a battle to save Lebanon.

U.S. MILITARY TEAM MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

Meets Butrus

JN0411347 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 April--Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today met with the members of the U.S. military team now visiting Lebanon. Following the meeting, head of the U.S. team (Robert Dani) stated that he discussed Lebanon's need for U.S. aid. He will also hold talks with the army general and senior officers in the Lebanese Defense Ministry.

Butrus stated that the visit of the U.S. military team has provided the opportunity to define the needs of the army during present and future stages, to expedite the process of U.S. aid to Lebanon and to view ways to rearm the army in a manner to enable it to achieve stability and tranquillity in Lebanon.

Meets Army Officials

NC041827Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The commander of the army staff, Brig Gen Victor Khuri, today met with a team of U.S. officers headed by Col (Robert Tighe). They discussed U.S. military aid to the Lebanese Army. This aid was previously announced by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance during his visit to the Lebanese capital last August. The chief of the general staff, Staff Col Munir Turbayy, also received the U.S. military team at his army command headquarters. He and the team discussed the situation in southern Lebanon as well as the nature of U.S. aid to rebuild the Lebanese Army.

UNIFIL COMMANDER INSPECTS FRENCH FORCE IN TYRE

NC041832Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] UNIFIL Commander General Erskine inspected the Tyre barracks today. He was received by the commander of the French contingent, Colonel Salvan, and Lebanese gendarmerie officers.

General Erskine was briefed on the progress of operations in the area. He and senior officers discussed the question of returning Lebanese gendarmerie units to their previous posts, which are now under the control of the Israeli forces. The gendarmerie units are ready to take up their posts and are awaiting orders to do so.

General Erskine affirmed to the gendarmerie officers that the Israeli forces do not object to the gendarmerie taking over some posts in the south in coordination with UNIFIL and that the Israelis have pledged not to intervene in the affairs of the Lebanese gendarmerie. Gendarmerie units, in cooperation with UNIFIL, are expected to take up posts on the Litani bridges in the next 48 hours.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY

NC041405Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Certain Palestinian organizations have recently been using trucks to transport heavy weapons to Beirut, particularly from An-Nabatiyah and its environs.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent has learned that the organizations have seized a number of warehouses near Khaldah and have unloaded trucks at these warehouses. Last Sunday evening two truckloads of weapons were unloaded in the Sabra camp.

The same correspondent has also learned that there has been an alarming increase in the number of the Palestinians in the Al-Kharrub area of Ash-Shuf. There are an estimated 10,000 Palestinians in the townships of Barja and (Shkum). They are setting up offices and training centers in the area.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CLASH REPORTED NEAR TYRE

NC050634Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 5 Apr 78 NC

[Text] According to reports received this morning, a clash has taken place between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian armed men in Dayr Qanun south of Tyre. The commander of the UN forces has said that his forces will do their utmost to prevent such clashes in the future. The sound of several explosions was also heard. It was learned that the UN forces were blowing up some of the planted mines. The UN forces continue to fortify their positions facing the Israeli barricades. Meanwhile, the Israeli air force continues to fly over the area.

INA: ISRAELIS DESTROY BUILDINGS IN SOUTH

JN041356Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1332 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 April--The Zionist enemy forces today blew up 13 houses in the village of Batulayh in the Tyre district and a number of houses in the nearby village of Al-Bazuriyah. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon says that the sound of the explosions was heard today coming from southeastern Tyre. The enemy aircraft are flying over the southern region almost continuously.

AL-ASAD PRESIDES OVER NATIONAL FRONT MEETING

JN0506511Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 2015 yesterday President Hafiz al-Asad presided over the meeting of the Central Command of the Progressive National Front. The discussion during the meeting revolved around the developments in the Arab area and the situation resulting from the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and the connection of the aggression with the capitulatory scheme being implemented by the Egyptian regime through its contacts with the enemy.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES NEW PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

JN0413351Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid and the members of the assembly bureau at 1245 today. President al-Asad wished Speaker Hadid success on the occasion of his election as Speaker of the People's Assembly. During the meeting, they discussed the activity of the new session of the People's Assembly.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL

JN0506481Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad at midnight last night received Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League. The discussion during the meeting focused on the outcome of the deliberations of the ministerial committee of the Arab-European Dialog. The discussion also dealt with the Arab situation and its developments.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES JORDANIAN SENATE MEMBERS

JN0413481Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At 1400 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-Mun'im ar-Rifa'i and 'Akif al-Fayiz, Jordanian Senate members, who congratulated him on his reelection as president of the republic. The president thanked them and discussed the situation in the Arab region with them.

AL-BA'TH REJECTS IRAQI ALLEGATIONS ON LEBANON

LD0413251Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Mahmud Kamil article: "Lies Against Syria"]

[Text] Organs of the Iraqi regime and of some of the quarters conspiring against Syria continue to fabricate and falsify news in an attempt to undermine the steadfastness of this country and confuse Arab world opinion. One of the recent falsifications attributed to diplomatic sources by these quarters was the allegation that Syrian forces have moved to the Litani River to prevent the Palestinian resistance from carrying out its operational duties against the Zionist enemy. The Iraqi regime and the conspiring quarters have been constantly spreading such lies. We are not concerned here with replying to such lies because the resistance well knows the amount of aid Syria gave during the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. It also knows that Syria is devoting all its efforts to building its intrinsic power to achieve a strategic balance with the enemy and that it acts in the national interest.

However, since trumpets of the Iraqi regime and hostile quarters have been fabricating such lies, we must explain the following points:

First, that the Syrian forces are still in their positions; second, that Syria did not and will not stop any aid reaching the Palestinian resistance and that on its part it will not hesitate to give aid to it; and third, that Syria, obviously, will not charge its soldiers with the task of protecting the enemy who is occupying its territory and will not contribute to any action that would prevent the Palestinian resistance from performing its national duty and right to fight against the Israeli occupation which has usurped the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Any talk about Syria's participation in protecting Israel from the actions of the Palestinian resistance could only come from those quarters which are involved in plotting against Syria's steadfastness and the national objectives.

AL-BA'TH SAYS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES NONEXISTENT

LD041347Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Majid 'Awad article: "The Historic Meetings"]

[Text] Historic, brave, great, courageous--these have been the flowery words systematically used to describe every meeting between the Egyptian regime and the enemy during all the stages from As-Sadat's conspiratorial visit to Israel up to Zionist war minister Weizman's declaration the day before yesterday that all that has taken place at these meetings has been historic. In fact, what has taken place is no more than a conspiracy against the Arabs and their national interests. The information media of the United States, Israel, and As-Sadat use such phrases in order to lend credibility and earnestness to the meetings on the one hand and to mislead the Arabs about their conspiratorial nature on the other.

However, the exposure of the truth about these meetings prompted these information media recently to give the impression that there are differences between the Egyptian regime and Israel while in actual fact flirtation between them is going on secretly. This has been disclosed by Israeli sources in one way or another. Zionist Foreign Minister Dayan said that, contrary to what is being said about a deadlock in the negotiations, there are good intentions to carry on with them. Begin on his part declared that a peace treaty cannot be achieved overnight.

The fact is that despite Israel's insistence on not withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories and refusing to recognize the rights of the Palestinians to a state, as well as the Israeli occupation of large areas of southern Lebanon with the support of the United States, the Egyptian regime, because of its conspiratorial alliance with Israel and the United States, does not see this as hindering or affecting its negotiations with the Israelis or shaking its trust in the United States.

Consequently and on the basis of the negotiations which are being held under the aegis of the United States, the U.S. information media--followed by the media of As-Sadat and Israel--have created the impression of differences existing between the United States and Israel because of Israel's intransigent stand and have claimed that if Israel does not change its stand, the U.S. effort will concentrate on bringing about a change in the Israeli government and ousting Begin from power.

While this is being said Dayan, who was present at the recent Carter-Begin talks in Washington, said that he did not feel during the talks that there was U.S. pressure on Israel, and Begin described the dispute as a storm in a teacup.

If anything, this goes to indicate the strength of the U.S.-Israeli ties and that the dispute is fabricated and a programmed step dictated by the need to renew the public negotiations between the Egyptian regime and Israel.

Even if there were government change in Israel--as has been described by the information media as a result of the alleged U.S. pressure--this would change nothing about the situation. The Israeli political line is one and the same. Golda Meir or Yitzhaq Rabin were no less ambitious and adhered no less to occupation and aggression than Begin or whoever may come next, because they all are of the same substance. Also, the United States will remain absolutely biased in favor of Israel. This was confirmed by Israeli officials themselves when they described their relations with the United States as being above all differences.

Therefore, we can say that the U.S.-Israeli dispute is false and serves the U.S. interests in the area. It is coordinated operation intended to attribute to the United States the quality of a just mediator so that the unilateral peace agreement which the United States is undertaking to realize between the Egyptian regime and Israel will be concluded. As-Sadat must have been acquainted with the outcome of the Carter-Begin talks through the message which Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ashraf Ghurbal carried to Cairo, as was reported by Egyptian sources.

ARAB LEAGUE'S RIYAD LEAVES DAMASCUS FOR RIYADH

JN050946Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad left Damascus this morning for Riyadh at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria during which he attended the meetings of the ministerial committee for discussing the Arab-European Dialog.

Riyad was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian economy and foreign trade minister, and by high-ranking officials from the ministry of economy.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B COMMENTS ON CARTER'S SPEECH IN NIGERIA

LD041330Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Al-Hadi article: "The Double-Faced Policy"]

[Text] Carter said nothing new in his speech in Lagos yesterday as the first U.S. president to visit black Africa. Instead, he renewed Washington's "adherence" to justice and human rights, its opposition to foreign intervention (!) [punctuation as published] and its striving to maintain security and peace in the continent. The first impression that one gains is that Carter cares for the interests of the African peoples more than the Africans themselves. This was particularly true when he brought up the question of the Zimbabwe problem and of racial discrimination in South Africa.

The U.S. President declared that he opposes foreign interference in the African countries but, of course, ignored foreign interference in several African states. Perhaps the U.S. President considered the French forces as African forces not strange to Africa.

On Zimbabwe, the U.S. President said that a quick solution must be reached for the problem "so as to avoid further bloodshed." But why is Mr Carter eager for a quick settlement when his administration did not condemn the internal agreement between Smith and African agents encouraged by London and blessed by the United States? Why did Washington remain silent over shedding the blood of thousands of people who fell victim of repeated aggressions by a racist and illegal regime which derives its strength from U.S. funds? This regime has now become interested in stopping bloodshed because the white settlers have become concerned over the increasingly hard blows of the revolutionaries and the escalation of the armed struggle of the Zimbabwe people who have become convinced that the solution lies in the gun and far away from the scenes where conspiracies are hatched and plans drawn out for settlements that would preserve the Western countries' interests.

The problem of the Zimbabwe people emerged since Smith mutinied against the British throne in 1975 [date as published]. The secret behind the interest shown in the problem by London and Washington after 13 years should not escape the African masses which have seen to what extent the Western world sympathized with Smith's regime throughout these years.

The U.S. President, while speaking about justice and human rights, ought to have been fair by declaring to the African people's that his administration has abandoned and halted its massive aid to the racist regimes in Africa whose repressive methods and terror have been exposed.

President Carter will convince nobody as he warns Vorster's government about the consequences of U.S. reaction to its policy, and, at the same time, declares that Washington has decided to provide the Pretoria regime with more than 80 warplanes to boost its military arsenal and repressive and aggressive machinery. His honeyed words will convince nobody unless he refrains from vetoing the Security Council resolutions against his allies in South Africa and stops flirting with the people and showing sympathy with their problems at the same time as the U.S. administration is supporting feudalist and terrorist regimes which U.S. intelligence protects against peoples' anger.

The African peoples have gained awareness because of their long struggle and today are capable of distinguishing between the genuine supporter of their interests and concerns and the one who gives them broad smiles, soft words, milk cans and rice after having plundered and exploited their wealth.

LIBYA

JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD041300Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Mudar Badran, Jordanian prime minister, foreign minister and defense minister, arrived this afternoon at Beninah airport on a visit to the Jamahiriyah which will last for several days.

Mudar Badran was given a popular welcome by 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee; the brother secretaries; the chairman of the People's Committee of Benghazi Municipality; the political and people's leaderships and armed forces and police force officers.

Begins Talks

LD042244Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Official talks between the Jamahiriyah and Jordan began at 1800 today in the conference hall at the (Qasr al-Jazirah) Hotel in Benghazi. The Libyan side was led by brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee, and includes Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary; the Jamahiriyah ambassador to Jordan; the director of the Treaties and Legal Affairs Administration at the Foreign Secretariat; the director of Arab Administration at the Foreign Secretariat; and the director of the foreign secretary's office.

The Jordanian side was led by Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign and defense minister; and Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalid al-Madadha, director of the prime minister's office; [words indistinct] Jordanian charges d'affairs in the Jamahiriyah; Fayiz Jabir, secretary of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem, and Haythan Jamil, information advisor to the prime minister; and Abdallah Farraj, secretary to the prime minister.

Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi delivered a speech. He began by welcoming the Jordanian prime minister and members of his delegation and said: It gives us great pleasure in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to welcome you today in your country at a time when the Arab nation is in dire need of direct contacts. Today we welcome officials from a sister Arab country which has played its role in the struggle of the Arab nation and lived its problems.

Brother al-'Ubaydi added: Today when we welcome you we embody the Jamahiriyah policy drawn up after the Great 1 September Revolution led by brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and we work sincerely for the consolidation of bilateral cooperation between our two fraternal peoples. He said: I greet the loyal attitude adopted by the people of Jordan and their king after the initiative of the agent Egyptian regime and the difficulties which faced the confrontation states. These difficulties and challenges did not push them into the arms of imperialism or into pursuing capitulatory solutions. He confirmed that the Palestinian problem is the main occupation of sincere and progressive Arab countries. Greetings to the Jordan state for this sincere and constructive attitude.

Finally he confirmed the interest of the leader of the Great 1 September Revolution in backing the Palestinian cause and consolidating Libyan-Jordanian relations. Then brother Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign and defense minister of Jordan, replied and said: The feeling in Jordan is that we need sincere fraternity from every Arab, and no doubt the Jordanian people are very pleased with this visit to a sister country in which there is [word indistinct] and Arab feeling is clear as the sun. He said: In the past we used to say that Jordan was the first line of defense to the Arab nation. When the 1967 war took place Jordan was under a joint command, and the late 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad was the second commander of the forces in Jordan. We came out of the battle defeated because we did not have air cover. He added: Only a few months passed and the Arabs felt the return of dignity when the forces of treachery were destroyed at the Al-Karamah battle and we realized Israel could be defeated.

In 1973 Jordan was eager to enter the battle with its sisters Egypt and Syria, but Jordan feared defeat because of the lack of an air cover. But it took part with Syria, and our forces rushed to positions on the Golan. Today Jordan is convinced that there is no real peace because Israel rejects peace, and King Husayn has always said that Israel should choose between land and peace, and it has chosen land.

Brother Mudar Badran confirmed that the main principles which support Jordan's policy are clear and have not changed. They are: There should be a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands since 1967, especially from Arab Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people should get their legitimate rights. However, Israel does not want to withdraw or grant the Palestinian people their rights. He said: From this premise Jordan strives to build its own forces and calls for Arab unity.

SYRIAN BA'THIST AL-AHMAR HOLDS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

JN0417162Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, today met with the chief of the Foreign Relations Bureau in the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and the secretary general of the Organization of the Progressive Socialist Parties in the Mediterranean area. The two leaders discussed with him the cooperation between the two leading political organizations in Libya and Syria and their joint tasks within the framework of the steadfastness front. The two officials dealt with the current Arab situation, the confrontation with the imperialist and Zionist plots and the activities of the Organization of the Progressive Socialist Parties in the Mediterranean region and the means to promote them so as to achieve its aims.

MAURITANIA

MOROCCAN POST MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

PA0323152Y Paris AFP in French 1631 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 3 Apr (AFP)--The Moroccan minister of state in charge of posts, telegraph and telephones and secretary general of the Popular Movement arrived here today for a 4-day official visit to Mauritania.

MOROCCO

LE MATIN PRAISES FRENCH POLL RESULTS, ATTACKS SOCIALISTS

LD040915Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 22 Mar 78 pp 1, 4 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "The Reasons for Our Satisfaction"]

[Excerpt] As far as we Moroccans are concerned, we are pleased with the results of the French Parliamentary elections. We are pleased with the victory won by the president and the presidential majority. True, France's domestic affairs are the French people's own business, but it should be realized that the relations between our two countries were bound to be affected by the results of these elections. In any case we can state that as far as Morroccan, Arab and African policy is concerned, we are in full agreement with President Giscard d'Estaing.

In fact, our attitude toward the question of elections must be governed by national interest and not by any ideological considerations. During the election campaign, opposition leaders have repeatedly raised the subject of Sahara as if Morocco were a French province. This was a case of intolerable interference. During a televised program [PCF Secretary General] Marchais went as far as attacking and insulting our country and adopting toward the question of our Saharan provinces a stance which was even denounced by his comrade, our brother Ali Yata himself, in Al Bayane. In any case this was the only problem of foreign policy which was discussed during the election campaign.

This did not surprise us. We have already had the opportunity to state that the French left has always pursued not only a reactionary but even a colonialist policy. It was when socialist governments and socialist leaders were in power that we suffered arrests and repression and were exiled and deported. It was under a Popular Front government that the national movement in Morocco was deprived of its leaders, who were arrested and imprisoned or even deported, and that its press was banned. After the historic Tangiers speech it was a socialist--[former Premier] Ramadier--who sent General Juin to Morocco to bring His Majesty King Mohammed V to heel and pursue a policy of force. Socialist governments were involved in most colonialist operations, including the 1956 Suez affairs. No left government has ever started any decolonization operation whatever, with the exception of [former Premier] Mendes France. However, this was a special case since that man acted, as it were, in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the left when he brought the Vietnam war to an end and granted Tunisia internal autonomy.

And we have not forgotten that the agreements which restored our independence were signed by [former Premier] Edgar Faure and [former Foreign Minister] Pinay, who belong to the majority.

In fact, General de Gaulle and men belonging to the present majority have been responsible for the decolonization of Africa. None of them has ever interfered in our domestic affairs nor challenged our sovereignty over our Saharan provinces. On the contrary, they have always shown us understanding and friendliness. And we have not forgotten the strong ties of friendship between His Majesty King Hassan II and President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, established during the latter's visit to Morocco in May 1975 and during his majesty the king's official visit to France in November 1976 when he was received in an extremely cordial and friendly manner....

In view of all these considerations, we can only feel pleased with the majority's victory. Otherwise a worsening in our relations could have been expected, considering the attitude adopted by the leaders of the left, and this would have caused great damage to both countries. In fact, these leaders have not only adopted Algiers' theses and backed the use of mercenaries and subversives but have also behaved in an inadmissible manner with respect to our institutions and our regime. For these individuals are motivated only be sectarianism, deep-seated prejudice with respect to anything monarchical and religious, and by a kind of fetishism. Any regime calling itself socialist, be it the most tyrannical and bloodthirsty, enjoys their friendship and sympathy, but they will use the harshest possible language about, and adopt the most hostile possible attitude toward, any monarchy, even a most liberal and democratic one.

It is obvious therefore that the exemplary cooperation which has been established between Morocco and France would have suffered as a result of the left's victory.

In fact, nothing stands between us and the presidential majority, not only with respect to our country but also with respect to the Arab world and Africa. We observed this at the time of the Zaire affair when the two countries' views proved identical and when France answered [Mauritanian] President Mokhtar Ould Daddah's appeal. And this has continually been seen in France's African policy, which distinguishes not between good and bad regimes but between friendly and hostile countries.

As far as the Arab world is concerned, French policy has been pursued along the path determined by General de Gaulle and has continued to show understanding of the legitimate demands of the Arabs and the Palestinian people and even to support them. It has backed the conditions put forward by the Rabat summit, namely, withdrawal from territories occupied by Israel and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights and their right to possess a fatherland. Also in this case the views of the two countries have been identical. There is a close convergence between the views of His Majesty King Hassan II and those of President Giscard d'Estaing with respect to all the main Moroccan, Arab and African political problems. For all these reasons, and irrespective of our individual preferences and inclinations, we can only be pleased with the victory achieved by the presidential majority and President Giscard d'Estaing both for the sake of France and for the sake of its friends, including Morocco.

SUDAN

VICE PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

NC041700Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 4 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 4 April--In consultation with the presidential office, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry is currently conducting intensive contacts with a number of Arab states for setting up an Arab solidarity committee under the chairmanship of President Ja'far Numayri.

Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, Sudanese vice president and minister of foreign affairs, will address the People's Assembly Wednesday on the agreement reached at the meetings of the Arab League Council for restoring agreement among Arab brothers and achieving Arab solidarity, and on President Numayri's initiative for achieving national unity in Chad.

LABOR PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO PLAGUE DOMESTIC SCENE

Government-Journalists Impasse

TA050905Y Jerusalem POST in English 5 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[By Judy Siegel]

[Text] "The government is not in the mood to give in," said Broadcasting Authority Chairman Re'uven Yaron yesterday as Israel TV and Radio remained off the air for the third day in the continuing journalists' strike.

There were reports of arguments yesterday among the authority's journalists over whether to continue the strike in light of the government's tough stand against their demands.

Professor Yaron told the Jerusalem POST that if the media journalists continue in their demands, he is "not optimistic" that an agreement will be reached soon. A two-day strike of the daily newspapers ended on Monday when a compromise was found with the publishers. When the government did not agree to salary rises demanded by radio and TV journalists, they continued to stay away from work. Newspaper journalists returned to work on Monday night.

Yaron denied that the broadcasting authority had broken its word to go along with any agreement that would be reached with the newspaper journalists. "Before the negotiations started," he asserted, "we signed a commitment whereby we would not agree to demands beyond the 15 percent wage increases that the Histadrut and the employers consented to last month."

The Works Committee of TV and Radio Journalists reacted with "shock" yesterday to a statement by the Broadcasting Authority spokesman saying that the authority could not be bound by agreements reached by newspaper journalists because it is a state institution and must keep within government wage policy. The journalists committee said that the authority had entered negotiations with the newspaper publishers in a common front of its own initiative and that the printed press wage agreements had always been the basis of tv and radio journalists' salaries.

Listeners continued to tune in yesterday to the Galei Zahal army station, which remained the only source of radio news in Hebrew.

Teachers To Strike

TA050745Y Jerusalem POST in English 5 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv--Israel's 60,000 teachers, from kindergarten through teachers' college, will strike for one day tomorrow.

The teachers are demanding advances of between IL1,000 and IL2,000, depending on their grade and seniority, toward the raises they hope to negotiate in their new contract. Both the Histadrut Teachers' Union and the Secondary School Teachers' Association claim its members are underpaid in comparison to other groups in the economy. Union spokesmen say many teachers earn less than the minimum wage in the economy, and that some teachers are "below the poverty line."

The unions instructed teachers to give their pupils notes today informing parents not to send them to school tomorrow.

EL AL Flights Canceled

TA050800Y Jerusalem POST in English 5 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv--More than 1,000 passengers were stranded yesterday as EL AL cancelled all flights minutes after its employees called a work stoppage to protest the management's handling of negotiations on the new labor contract.

Managing director Mordekhay Hod said that it had been decided to suspend flights until a way could be found to operate the company without disruptions by staff. This may entail the total closure of the company, or at least sizeable layoffs.

An emergency meeting of EL AL's eight work committees and Histadrut officials in Tel Aviv yesterday decided that all EL AL workers would report to work this morning, despite the management's action. They said that both the Histadrut and workers would resist the closing of the airline "with all the organizational methods" possible.

Both Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich and Transport Minister Me'ir 'Amit said yesterday that they believed the time had come to close the airline, which has been plagued by strikes in recent years.

There was chaos in the departure hall at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday as 1,370 EL AL passengers tried to find alternative flights out of the country. An EL AL spokesman said last night that the company had managed to transfer 300 to other carriers.

EL AL management has appealed to the 16 international airlines flying to Israel to increase their seat capacity and ensure passage for stranded travellers.

The trouble started yesterday morning, when the company's staff called a work stoppage to protest the management's handling of negotiations on the new labor contract.

The staff were particularly incensed by a management letter announcing that the collective labor contracts were terminated from April 1, and that employees were henceforth linked to the company by individual contracts.

When the staff began holding meetings to discuss the contracts, the management immediately announced suspension of the flight schedules. Hod said that flights would not be resumed until conditions are created which permit the orderly operation of the flight schedules.

The EL AL board of directors met at the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem last night and reaffirmed support for the management's position.

Later last night, the management met to decide on the next steps in the dispute.

YADIN CRITICIZES CARTER'S VIEW OF ISRAEL'S STAND

TA042223Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 4 Apr 78 TA

[Text] President Carter preferred to present the Israeli position in negative terms rather than in a positive light. This was said this evening by Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin, who added: There is much that is positive in Israel's positions. The deputy prime minister was speaking at the opening session of the board of trustees of Hebrew University.

MA'ARIV COMMENTS ON CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

TA041614Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 p 5 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] Perhaps the claim of the U.S. administration that no senior diplomat said that the prime minister should be replaced in order to remove a barrier in the way of peace is true. However, the U.S. press (and not just it) is saying what the diplomats are not.

Day after day, the main column and editorial writers express the opinion that the prime minister or his policy should be changed; and this demand (or if you like, this expectation, or hope) has taken on the garb of an organized campaign.

As in a choir, the commentators in most Western countries are repeating the claim that the people in Israel are prepared to make far greater concessions than their prime minister and thus, there is room to replace the government. The principles of democracy, which throughout the year are so dear to the commentators, have been forgotten. The elections that took place 11 months ago have been forgotten. The broad parliamentary support that the government enjoys has also been forgotten. Any manifestation of disagreement with the government's policy is blown up out of all proportion; all reservations have been given the garb of a civil revolt.

One can agree with the government's policy or have reservations about it--and it is to the credit of the State of Israel that criticism gains full expression. Under no circumstances, however, is it possible to agree to this distortion of the nature of the political differences within Israel and with the attempt to influence political moves by means of a campaign based on ignoring the democratic process in Israel.

The government will be replaced if and when the Knesset ceases to have confidence in it. The Knesset will not take orders from the writers of the columns in the foreign press who make believe that the mood in Israel is more clear to them than it is to the elected representatives of the people in Israel.

WEIZMAN OPTIMISTIC ON REACHING SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT

TA041025Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani Rubinstein]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman believes that it is possible to overcome the difficulties and reach a settlement with Egypt. In his reports in Jerusalem, Weizman has said that in Cairo he found an open door and a great willingness to complete the negotiations.

The defense minister's reports and evaulations were submitted to the cabinet in its weekly session on Sunday. Weizman also reported yesterday to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and talked about his visit with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The U.S. ambassador was received for talks yesterday by Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF WEIZMAN'S NEXT CAIRO VISIT

TA050740Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 5 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Despite announcements from Egypt and by U.S. spokesmen saying that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is due to visit Cairo next week, there has not yet been any confirmation of this by official Israeli sources.

It cannot be assumed that the cabinet will make new decisions in preparation for Weizman's departure, although he may take with him new formulations on the Palestinian issue.

The objective of these formulations would be to lead to progress in the debates between Israel and Egypt over the declaration of principles.

POSSIBILITY OF DAYAN VISIT TO CAIRO CITED

TA051018Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan may leave for talks in Cairo in about 2 weeks if it emerges that the conditions for this have been prepared.

Political circles in Jerusalem who confirmed that the matter was indeed "being discussed" said, in reply to a question, that the matter was to a great extent dependent on the results of the talks held by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman in his next meeting in Cairo.

According to Egyptian sources, the defense minister is due in Cairo next week.

POSSIBILITY NOTED OF BEGIN VISIT TO U.S. IN MAY

TA051022Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Apr 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Ayre Zimmuqi]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will go to Washington in another 2 weeks for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the president's adviser on security affairs, Zbigniew Brzezinski. Prime Minister Menahem Begin will visit the United States at the end of this month to take part in celebrations marking the state's 30th anniversary.

At the beginning of May Begin might meet with President Carter, even though nothing has yet been agreed concerning such a meeting in contacts with members of the administration. At any rate, the possibility of a Carter- Begin meeting will be clarified during Moshe Dayan's visit to Washington.

DAVAR ADVOCATES CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY

TA041041Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 p 9 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] After missing 2 days of newspapers as well as dozens of news broadcasts because of the Israeli media strike, the reader will find out that even though the media has not interfered, political matters have not made progress.

The defense minister returned from Cairo, the foreign minister left for Romania and it is expected that the defense minister will return to Egypt and the foreign minister will again visit the United States. However, there is room to fear that the activity which finds its expression in such flights is not enough to move things out of deadlock. The U.S.-mediated negotiations with Egypt have reached a deadend, and the direct negotiations--which had already reached a deadend--did not get out of their deadlock during the end-of-the-week talks between the defense minister and the government's legal adviser and the Egyptian president and defense minister.

Under such circumstances it will be hard to maintain even a fake momentum. If there is no change in approach, the peace initiative is bound to fail.

In the last round of talks in Cairo it became clear that the obstacles in the way of an agreement continue to center mainly around the disagreement on the declaration of principles, the discussion over which has run aground first and foremost because of the Israeli Government's new interpretation of Resolution 242.

Despite the lack of substantial progress in these talks in Egypt, the invitation to the Israeli delegation by President as-Sadat shows that he is sticking to his political initiative despite the Arab offensive against him and despite the fact that the IDF is sitting inside Lebanon. This is a something that we cannot overlook either internally or externally.

The Israeli Government now has a heavy national responsibility; it must understand that there is no way to appease all, including extremist groups, with its policy. Such an attempt is a sure way to fail. On the other hand, there is no doubt that a policy that would pave the way to reaching a settlement and would thus prevent a crisis whose outcome is unpredictable is sure to gain the support of most of the Israeli nation. The government must free itself of its dogmatic approach, before this approach drags Israel into a position from which it will find it hard to defend itself.

BEN-ELISAR OPTIMISTIC ON CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

TA041632Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Apr 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The current circumstances of the negotiations with Egypt are likely to facilitate a positive development. This description was given today by Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the director general of the prime minister's office. Dr Ben-Elisar made the statement in a lecture on political developments at the Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem. He also said that Israel would act to change the U.S. stand on the question of the boundaries and on the issue of the national referendum. In his view, there is also a chance of succeeding in this. We shall hear an excerpt from Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar's statement: [begin recording]

I am ready to say that regarding the end result of the process we are witnessing today I am altogether optimistic. I think that Egypt has an interest in reaching peace with Israel. I am sure that all we Israelis have only one interest, and that consists of a desire and a craving for peace without sacrificing vital interests and without gambling or pawning the future. I think that actually a situation that appears closed from every direction is the most promising situation for openings. At a moment when everything seems to be closed, but when everyone wishes to extricate the carriage from the mud, then a way out is found. It will also be found in this particular case. Let us not forget: the direct negotiations with Egypt continue. The defense minister did make an important visit in Cairo and he will make another. The correspondence between the Egyptian president and the prime minister of Israel continues. There are all sorts of contacts. All this continues. Let us not belittle this achievement. [end recording]

At the end of the lecture, when the director general was asked questions, a debate developed between Arab students and Dr Ben-Elisar, in which the students contended that equal rights for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el is a concept remote from reality. The Arabs called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Dr Ben-Elisar replied he believed Eretz Yisra'el belonged only to the Jewish people; however, in order that the negotiations may succeed, Israel is ready to grant the Arabs self-rule.

OFFICERS CONTINUE TO PROTEST BEGIN'S POLICY

TA041030Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 p 8 TA

[By B. 'Amiqam]

[Text] Tens of thousands of postcards calling on Prime Minister Menahem Begin not to wait and "to make peace--now" will flood the prime minister's Jerusalem office in the next few days. These postcards have been written and signed by the participants of the protest rally organized by the authors of "the officers' letter" in Tel Aviv's Malkey Yisra'el Square.

Deep bitterness prevails among the initiators of "the officers' letter" following Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich's declaration defining their act as a "putsch" (attempted coup d'etat). One of the (reserve) officers, Zali Reshef, told me yesterday that this is not a respectable way for the government to fight criticism, criticism which emcompasses a wide spectrum of political opinions. The participants in the rally, estimated to be over 30,000, deserve an apology, he said.

The initiators of the officers' letter have approached Prime Minister Menahem Begin with a request for a meeting as soon as possible. They stated that as long as the government does not change its order of priorities, they will continue to instigate the public all over the country to organize rallies, demonstrations and mass protest meetings in the interest of the advancement of peace. The youths' initiative and the rally at Malhey Yisra'el Square have been widely covered by mass media throughout the world.

POST CAUTIONS 'PEACE NOW' MOVEMENT TO MODERATION

TA050810Y Jerusalem POST in English 5 Apr 78 p 10 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The "peace now" demonstration held in Tel Aviv Saturday night was an impressive example of the effective use of citizens' democratic right to express their opinions, especially when these diverge from those of the government in power.

The youthful organizers of the demonstration merit admiration for the restrained and good-natured manner in which it was conducted. It should be noted, however, before rushing to unwarranted conclusions, that the number of participants and onlookers--estimated at most at about 30,000---was about equal to the number brought out in the heyday of the right wing Gush Emunim demonstrations in opposition to the previous Labor government.

The point to be made to interested foreign observers is that a counter-demonstration in support of Mr Begin's policies could be organized with the greatest of ease, and that such a demonstration would be as sincere in the feeling it would articulate as was the "peace now" rally.

Citizens have a right and a duty to express their opinions. Policy, in a democratic system, however, cannot be made in public squares; it is a function of government subject to parliamentary support.

There is thus room to caution the "peace now" organizers not to get carried away with themselves in continuing their legitimate attempt to bring about changes in government policy. Not being carried away means expressing their opinion while constantly keeping a wary eye on the effect of such demonstrations on Israel's real enemies and on her tactical opponents among her true or assumed friends abroad.

The demonstration will have no effect on Mr Begin and his Herut Party. It does, however, constitute a warning to the center parties--the liberals in the Likud, the DMC and part of the NRP--who theoretically were supposed to fulfill the function of moderating the policy of Premier Begin's government. The message is clear: The natural constituencies of the center parties are deeply disappointed at their failure to fulfill this moderating function adequately.

Bringing this message home effectively to the parties concerned within the framework of the rules of the game of parliamentary government will be a test of the political maturity of what may become a budding new movement.

DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN SAMARIA CONTINUES

TA042225Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] Extensive development work is continuing at the settlement sites in Samaria. In a tour I undertook in some of the populated Israeli footholds and on sites approved for settlement, it became clear to me that with the exception of development work at An Nabi Salah nothing has been frozen, and the ground development and construction work in the settlements are continuing in accordance with previously approved plans.

A reliable source in the Defense Ministry said in reply to a question that no instruction was issued or exists for freezing work in Samaria, except for the matter of the tractor at An Nabi Salah, which arose on the eve of the defense minister's departure for the United States.

The reason the freezing instruction pertained to An Nabi Salah alone stemmed from fear that the matter would raise a storm, since the site at An Nabi Salah is expropriated land which was seized only a short time before.

The source disclosed that at no time was an instruction issued for a general freezing of work in Samaria, neither before the prime minister left for Washington, nor before the defense minister went to Egypt at the end of last week. The source confirmed that throughout these weeks not a single tractor stood idle. If there was an impression of freeze in the work, it was mistaken, deriving from the defense establishment's reluctance to react to claims--disseminated by people whose identity is well known--that such a decision had been made. The defense minister had adhered to the cabinet's decisions, and except for freezing the work in Sinai (since early in February) and at An Nabi Salah, no other work was held up.

Thus it transpires that work has not been frozen at the rest of the sites, something that can be well observed in the field. In Haris, on the trans-Samaria highway, work carried out with Jewish National Fund equipment is going on at an accelerated pace. Dozens of dunams are being prepared for the construction of an urban complex to comprise several dozen housing units, as well as structures to house community services. A maintenance depot for heavy equipment has been constructed on the site. The development work is being carried out some distance away from the military foothold established at Haris and, according to information I have, the ground development work is somewhat behind schedule because the planners encountered substrata that had more stone than anticipated.

At the Sanur settlement in the Dotan Valley new housing units can be seen going up, which have been built in the last 2 weeks. [paragraph continues]

Expansion work is also in progress at Mahane Shomron, with additional prefabricated housing units going up, extending the settlers' camp beyond the size planned when they first entered the IDF base.

At Elon More housing units have been put up in recent weeks, part of the dozens of planned units that will permit the settlers to move from trailers to more solid housing. These units are a provisional solution for Elon More's residents, until the planning of their permanent location nearby is finished.

At Qarne Shomron, after paving and groundbreaking were finished there about a week ago, various finishing touches are being delayed by budgetary difficulties. Qarne Shomron is already populated by dozens of families living in light structures. Community service buildings have been erected in accordance with a detailed design meant to be completed in the next few days. Also at the Silat Az Zahr foothold the first permanent structures were erected last week in the northern part of the foothold, and soon construction of additional units will be taking place. It is not yet clear, however, whether a civilian body will be settling there.

As for Shilo, where the Defense Ministry has demanded that settlers evacuate the site, over a month ago several standard light structures were put up by the Jewish Agency. For the moment it is not clear how this work was in fact carried out. Senior sources are still ascertaining when and by whom instructions were given to bring the structures to the Shilo excavation site. It is learned from a reliable source that no negotiations are being conducted with the settlers about their transfer from Shilo to another site. Nor has an alternative spot been checked out for them, although this possibility did come under discussion on one occasion.

IDF SOLDIER SHOT IN JERUSALEM, DIES OF WOUNDS

TA050715Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Apr 78 TA

[Text] An IDF soldier on reserve duty, Pvt Avraham Deutsch, 32, from Jerusalem, was shot in the head at 1800 GMT yesterday at the soldiers' hitchhiking stop at the Rockefeller Crossroads in Jerusalem. He was taken, seriously wounded, to Hadassah Hospital, where he died of his wounds.

CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED IN S. LEBANON

TA042214Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 4 Apr 78 TA

[From the Midnight Newsreel]

[Text] Mortar fire this afternoon hit the Norwegian UN force deployed on the Al-Khardali bridge. A number of shells and some light arms fire also hit the Christian village of Dayr Minas in the eastern Christian enclave. Our military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports from southern Lebanon:

Eight 120-mm mortar shells landed at 1600 in the area of Al-Khardali bridge in the eastern sector. The Norwegian UN force in the area did not sustain any casualties. The Norwegians, who deployed in the region the day before yesterday, were at that time busy clearing mines from the approaches to the bridge. The source of the fire was apparently in the township of An-Nabatiyah. This was the first case of firing at the Norwegian UN troops since they began their deployment in southern Lebanon.

At about 1900 artillery and light arms fire was opened on the Christian village of Dayr Minas in the eastern sector. The village is located near the Beaufort Fortress, which was the source of fire. The Christian forces in the area returned fire. The calm which has prevailed in southern Lebanon in the last few days has been violated.

METULLA GOOD FENCE GATE TO BE RELOCATED

TA041923Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Apr 78 TA

[From special Newsreel]

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that the good fence gate at Metulla will be transfered 3 kms to the east following a request by Metulla residents. The present location of the gate caused damage to their orchards.

SHI'ITE NOTABLES TO HELP RECRUIT FOR S. LEBANESE ARMY

TA041242Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 p 8 TA

[By 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] Shi'ite notables in the Bint Jubayl region have agreed to cooperate with the initiative to recruit Shi'ite youths within the framework of a southern Lebanese army. This was reported in a meeting held in the municipality of 'Ayn Ibil in the presence of the commander of the front, Maj Sami (Shidyaq), the commander of the Phalangist unit in the area and representatives of dozens of Shi'ite villages.

In a talk with HA'AREZ, Major (Shidyaq) said that the representatives of the Shi'ite sect have asked for 2-weeks to determine if the Shi'ite youths should organize within the framework of the existing forces or establish a separate militia which would operate with the existing Lebanese forces. (Shidyaq) said that in preparation for the meeting, the Lebanese army units under his command conducted searches to locate soldiers and militiamen who stole property from deserted villages. Goods "worth several thousands pounds" were found and returned to their owners.

He added that during the operation it was discovered that much property was stolen by the Shi'ites, who claim that they did so in order to save the property of their relatives and of other members of their sect who fled. (Shidyaq) admits that there were ugly cases of looting, "however, I have under my command only some 400 regular soldiers, and they are incapable of guarding the abandoned property in all the villages."

Along with these regular soldiers, who receive their salary from the Lebanese Defense Ministry in Beirut, there is a 1,000-man militia of Phalangists, National Liberals and "Guardians of the Cedars." They operate in patrols in the Christian villages.

Major (Shidyaq) added that Lebanese soldiers cooperate with IDF soldiers in roadblocks set in southern Lebanon to prevent looting and robbery by both military personnel and civilians.

The HA'AREZ correspondent who toured several villages in the central and western fronts heard from local inhabitants in responsible positions that the IDF allows drivers to go north to Tyre and Beirut only in order to drive back refugees who want to return to their homes. In some villages the inhabitants said that the paralyzing of commerce has caused a lack of basic commodities. The IDF has partially supplemented supplies by distributing free provisions, but the inhabitants want transportation and commerce to resume.

Everywhere I met refugees who had returned in the last few days. They said that the PLO in the area of Tyre and Syrian and Lebanese soldiers north of there are not pressuring them to return and are not preventing them from doing so. The overall picture that one gets is of total chaos in the Tyre enclave.

The impression remains that the majority of those who return are women, children and elderly people. Only a few youths return. A Lebanese public personality from the township of Tibnin explained: Many of the youths who have been recruited into the Arab Lebanese army of the deserter, Capt Ahmad al-(Hatib), receive good wages of 500 to 600 Lebanese pounds per month (approximately 3,000 Israeli pounds). They are in no hurry to return south for fear of the IDF and the Christian Lebanese forces. This fact will probably be a further obstacle in the way of forming the southern Lebanese army that Maj Sa'd Haddad and Maj Sami (Shidyaq) are trying to organize.

WESTERN ESTIMATES OF LEBANESE CASUALTIES REPORTED

TA041128Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Western intelligence sources estimate the number of civilians killed in the IDF operation in southern Lebanon and during the Israel air force's bombing north of the Litani River at over 1,000, based, among other things, on reports from Lebanese hospitals and lists drawn up by mukhtars of southern Lebanese villages.

The estimate of the number of casualties is not final since not all the ruins in the southern Lebanese villages have been cleared. There are mukhtars in the southern villages who claim that the number of killed who are buried under the ruins reaches several hundred. The figure of 1,000 killed includes casualties from the air force bombing of bases used by the terrorists for operations in the Damur and ('Uzay) areas. These were invariably located near residential areas. Most of those killed in southern Lebanon were not Palestinians, but Lebanese.

Israeli sources said that they did not have data to confirm or deny these numbers, but they seemed to them exaggerated. From reports made by the mukhtars on losses of lives in the villages themselves the figure cited is from 150 to 700 killed. Several days after the operation, the commander of the northern command, Maj Gen Evigdor Ben Gal, estimated the number of civilians killed in southern Lebanon at a few dozen. At a press conference he specified 30 dead and approximately 100 injured. The large number of casualties was caused by the IDF's method of operation: to soften the targets with massive fire in order to avoid attacks which would have increased the number of casualties among IDF forces.

ONLY 12 TERRORISTS CAPTURED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA041135Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Text] The number of terrorists captured by our forces during the IDF operation in southern Lebanon was only 12, including an Egyptian, a Pakistani and an Iranian.

Several dozen people suspected of belonging to Fatah and other Palestinian organizations were detained by the IDF forces during the operation. After long investigations it was found that only 12 belonged to these organizations. Some of those detained were hurt and are still being treated in hospitals. Among the 12 there is a 14-year-old boy who was caught armed, as well as a Lebanese man who was recruited by Fatah as a cook. There are five Palestinians and four Lebanese among the 12 being detained. All the others were released following investigations.

CEAUSESCU WILL VISIT ISRAEL WHEN PEACE PREVAILS

TA042158Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Apr 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By David Landau, from Bucharest]

[Excerpt] "There are no dramatic results...for the time being." Thus Israeli sources concluded Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's first day in Bucharest, a full day which included a 2-hour talk with President Nicolae Ceausescu.

In yesterday's meeting Dayan and President Ceausescu conducted a lively courtesy talk prior to the political discussions.

Ceausescu asked: Why is your visit here so short?

Dayan: This is only the first visit, and I hope there will be more. Obviously I need much more time to perceive Romania's beauty and uniqueness. If we are talking of visits--the citizens of Israel are anxious to know when you, Mr President, will visit our country.

Ceausescu: As soon as there is peace.

Dayan: Then we will see you within 2 or 3 weeks...?

Ceuesescu: If so, I will come before 1 May....

DAYAN, CEAUSESCU ARGUE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

TA050900Y Jerusalem POST in English 5 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpts] Bucharest--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan debated for more than four hours here yesterday with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu over the Palestinian problem--but neither man appeared to make any inroads in the other's position.

Dayan was apparently upset that the Romanian Government, in a statement issued by its AGERPRES official news agency, referred only to a "cordial atmosphere," and did not use the warmer code-words "useful, friendly and constructive."

The Romanian leader, it is understood, spent part of his two meetings with Dayan--one yesterday and a shorter one on Monday--berating Israel for its incursion into south Lebanon. A crossing of international frontiers by regular forces was a most serious--and dangerous--act, Ceausescu warned. Israel had taken a huge and unjustified risk in embarking on the operation, and in its own interest it should evacuate southern Lebanon forthwith.

Dayan explained at length to Ceausescu Israel's motive for embarking on the southern Lebanese action, referring to the overall situation in the border area and to the terrorist raid on the coastal highway preceding the IDF operation.

Addressing the Jewish community here last night, Dayan announced that his host, Foreign Minister Andrei, had accepted an invitation to visit Israel, and would probably come during the summer. Earlier, at a reception at the home of Israeli Ambassador Abba Gefen, Dayan was heard urging Deputy Foreign Minister Cornel Pacoste to come to Jerusalem, apparently even before his boss. Pacoste, who has visited Israel before, is seen as a rising luminary in the Romanian firmament.

MAJIDI URGES ACTION AGAINST ANTINATIONAL PROVOCATIONS

LD040842Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 3 Apr 78 LD

[Statement issued 3 April by Abdolmajid Majidi, coordinator of the progressive wing of the Rastakhiz Party]

[Text] In the course of over 15 years, the Iranian Government, under the leadership of its far-sighted leader and backed by the principles of the shah-people revolution, has achieved undreamed of victories, victories considered impossible by others. In a very short time it has traversed a long path, a path that took other nations centuries to travel, and even then they had to make sacrifices and sustain great hardships. By utilizing national resources and potentials the Iranian Government has managed to build an infrastructure that insures the rapid and continued economic progress of this land. The standards of literacy, knowledge and research have reached levels that open new and unknown horizons to our people. The level of people's expectations and demands have reached a point where it is difficult to meet many of them.

This material progress and the rise in the standard of living and welfare has confronted people with the question of whether it is now time to make some changes on the social and political fields as well, now that such progress has been made in other fields. The economic and social achievements led most of us to believe that our mental maturity and the spiritual depth of the society had reached a point that would allow us to have more self-confidence and allow each of us to speak more freely and openly, to be more tolerant in listening to criticism, to make our democratic dimensions more comprehensive and more complete, to desire real popular participation and to call on people to become more involved in their own affairs, to take rapid measures to hand matters over to the people. We deeply believed that the Iranian people today enjoyed sufficient social and political maturity, that they had personally felt the fruits of the revolution and progress and had enjoyed its blessings. Consequently, it was assumed that they would unyieldingly safeguard these achievements and victories.

The shah, who has always recognized the needs of the Iranian people before anyone else, felt the need to make such changes. Although he recognized that the 19 principles of the shah-people revolution provided the people with the necessary explanations and that the people were aware of the principles governing life in today's Iran and proving guidance in its progress, the shah said: Such daily information is not adequate to lead to a profound and all-embracing analysis of the spirit and ideology of the Iranian revolution and to communicate it to a majority of the people in order to pave the path for their conscious participation in the promotion of the revolution and the expression of their views, guidance, suggestions and constructive criticism. After all, it is this type of participation that is absolutely necessary for the progress of the revolution because this is a revolution that was staged for the Iranian people and with their full support. Therefore, its implementation must be continued in the best possible manner.

It was with such an understanding that, after the creation of this all-embracing party, Iran's political climate was opened up, a climate of free discourse was created and everyone was allowed--within the limits of respecting the fundamental principles of the Rastakhiz Party, that is, the system of monarchy, the constitution and the shah-people revolution--to discuss their views. Naturally these views are different and should be different from each other in view of the differences in taste, understanding and psychology. Thus, everyone tries to resolve the problems and helps the executive authorities to eliminate them.

This was an unprecedented opportunity for all the Iranian people, especially politically active and politically knowledgeable individuals, to express their views quite openly, thus creating a new wave of ideas and fruitful solutions while safeguarding the sanctity of this new political climate and demonstrating their social and political maturity.

Why is it, then, that with the creation of this political climate, some of those who are nationally responsible to openly express what is in their hearts and enrich this open discussion with their honest utterance have remained silent? Not only do they keep quiet about their views and understandings, but through their whispering and mumbling they play a negative role and sow the seeds of distrust and indifference among the people. This is happening at a time when they can express their views, whether in support of policies, measures and solutions, or concerning positive and constructive criticisms within the framework of the revolution.

These people have even stretched their indifference and failure beyond this, to the point where they are not fulfilling their patriotic and conscientious duty to oppose hooliganism, sabotage, violence and plunderings. Thus, they vacate the arena and allow a few self-interested mischief-makers and a handful of known agents of black and red reaction--and eventually some foreign mercenaries--to fill the arena with sticks, clubs, axes and hatchets in order to annihilate all the manifestations of social progress and try to drag us back hundreds of years by destroying cultural, social and economic institutions that were created through hard work and long years of effort.

Those who must stand up to these acts and violent and shameless measures do not react? Why? Not only that, they might even have found an interesting topic of discussion for their sessions and meetings.

The progressive wing of the Rastakhiz Party, in another part of this statement, says: People of Iran, wake up! Active members of the Rastakhiz Party of Iran, come to yourselves! Let us not allow a handful of malicious individuals and a group of agents to think that they can disturb our tranquillity. We must recognise that all these acts and demonstrations are intended to disrupt our progress. We must remember that the happiness of each one of us and that of our children is subject to our awareness and alertness today. We must recognize that the most important condition for progress, education and greater welfare is a secure and stable political situation. Let us look at the world arena. We see how the countries that have left a brilliant economic miracle behind are going backward simply because of lack of proper attention to security and political and social order. Thus, they are faced with paralysis; these countries are faced with bankruptcy and incurable crises. Social safety and security in these countries is at such a low ebb that no one is sure whether he can return home safely.

What the shah wished is not to leave the arena wide open and without challenge to hooligans and troublemakers, simply because we want an open society, and then sit by. The open political climate in Iran is meant for the progressive and patriotic people, not for reactionaries and traitors. Everything we have belongs to this land and everything we own is in this country; therefore, we cannot tolerate seeing our future endangered, while we remain silent. We cannot witness our security and peace disturbed without showing some reaction. We who have been educated in this country's schools, acquired knowledge at its universities and studies abroad, while taking advantage of the possibilities provided us by our country and for long years been engaged in building our dear Iran and modernizing our society, cannot witness these revolting scenes without shouting our objections and sorrowfully regreting our neglect.

We are not among those who as soon as an end is put to profiteering and speculation pack up and leave with our families for our apartments and villas abroad in order to manage our transferred wealth. We want to live in this country free and with honor and see with our own eyes the fruits of further progress and enrichment of the national wealth, and build for ourselves and our children a civilized and great society.

The coordinator of the progressive wing then says: Today is the day to come to our senses and refuse to allow the tragic and shameful events of not so long ago, which we still remember, to be repeated in our beloved country; these are the events which are taking place daily in many other countries. In these circumstances, it is not only the people who ought to come to themselves and safeguard their achievements and welfare; the role played by the party's active members and responsible officials is more sensitive and more effective, and they must be aware of their duties and be prepared in this challenge to stand up to the opposition and self-seeking individuals. It is because of this that, as coordinator of the progressive wing, I call on all sympathisers and all those recognizing this feeling, and believe in the attitude of the progressive wing to rise up and confront these anti-national provocations and, fulfilling their party and patriotic duties, prevent the wasting of national strength and stagnation of our society's progress. Today is the day of action. We must rise under the flag of the Rastakhiz Party with order and resolution and, by establishing national action committees in all cities, confront this unchivalrous and chaotic onslaught.

The first national action committee of the progressive wing should be established within the next few days in the capital city and the centers of the provinces and all the positive and patriotic and shah-loving elements should join these committees to launch their relentless struggle against violence and chaos. Obviously, the progressive wing takes this initiative today to confront the current situation. However, this is in fact a national all-embracing action, which should turn into an all-encompassing party wave. We must not rest until this plot is revealed and the aims of the troublemakers are exposed and the political environment of our society is cleansed, for our society must always remain powerful, as a powerful society is a free society. The shah expects us to safeguard this freedom and democracy.

DISTURBANCES REPORTED TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

LD031100Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0925 GMT 3 Apr 78 LD

[Text] According to the PARS news agency, nightly disturbances continue in certain cities and the elements instigated by the enemies of progress and advancement of Iran and the Iranians continue to invade people's peace and tranquillity at night and during the early morning. These elements keep attacking public and economic institutions and then disappear under the cover of darkness.

These elements, who are limited in number and are obviously misled by foreigners, come out in the evening in small groups and, after smashing some windows and setting fires to a few places, leave the scene.

According to reports received from Ahvaz, at 2100 yesterday, a number of troublemakers created some disturbances in a street and smashed the windows of some banks and public buildings. They were dispersed when officials arrived on the scene. At 2330 a bank on Kurdsh Kabir Street in Ahvaz was set on fire by troublemakers. The fire was brought under control immediately by firemen.

At midnight on Friday, the troublemakers smashed some windows of banks in Babo. On Friday evening, some other troublemakers attacked a bank in Baneh and smashed its windows. In Rezaiyeh, some troublemakers tried to set fire to Takht-e Jamshid movie theater by pouring gasoline over and placing incendiary devices under the seats. The incident took place around 2000 on Saturday, when a great many people were watching a film. However, firemen were alerted and an incident was averted.

In Nahavand and Hamadan, around midnight Saturday, troublemakers smashed the windows of two branches of the Saderat Bank and then fled. In Shushtar, around 0200, when most people were resting, two buses belonging Karunto Agroindustrial Company were set on fire. The buses were used to take workers to work.

In Dar-e Shahr in Ilam Province, at 0500 yesterday, a number of troublemakers set fire to the governor's car. The fire was extinguished by firemen, but part of the car was burned. In Qom, around midnight last night, two banks were set on fire. The firemen brought the fire under control and stopped it from spreading to people's houses. There was, fortunately, no loss of life. At 0400 today troublemakers set fire to the physical education building in Sirjan, Kerman; parts of the building are reported to have been burned. The fire was immediately brought under control with minimal damage.

Further Incidents Reported

LD031810Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Subversive and hostile activity of an irrational and antinational group continues in various parts of the country. In most of the incidents damage has been inflicted on economic, welfare and public institutions.

According to the PARS news agency, at 2100 yesterday a group of subversives and troublemakers, who were riding on motorcycles, smashed the windows of two bank branches and set fire to buildings, and then fled the scene. One of the troublemakers was arrested and is now being prosecuted.

The same report says that about midnight last night in Kermanshah a bomb went off at the youth center building and destroyed a section of the building.

In Najafabad, Isfahan Province, at 0100 today subversive elements smashed the windows of the town's Sepah Bank branch and threw an incendiary device inside the building. The device did not go off. The windows of the town's Drivers' Trade Union building were broken by subversive elements.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI LEAVES FOR VIENNA TALKS

LD041005Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 4 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Abbas-Ali Khalatbari, today left for Vienna on an official visit to Austria. During the visit he will hold talks with the Austrian foreign minister and other high-ranking political officials.

Arrival Reported

For reportage on Foreign Minister Khalatbari's 4-day official visit to Austria, see the Austria section of the 5 April Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BANGLADESH

ZIA SPEAKS ABOUT ELECTIONS, LEAVES FOR JAPAN

BK050800Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman is on his way to Tokyo on a 4-day state visit to Japan. He is accompanied by Begum Zia and a 10-member delegation.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the president said his visit is primarily a good-will one at the invitation of the Japanese prime minister. He said it is one in a series of many such visits which he has been undertaking to different countries to promote bilateral relations.

The president said during his stay he will discuss at length with Japanese leaders prospects of greater economic assistance for his country both in the public and private sector. He will also discuss the possibilities of scientific, technological and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The president said questions related to increased trade and commerce between Japan and Bangladesh will also figure in the discussions. In this connection, he referred to the large delegation comprising representatives from the private sector which is accompanying him during the current tour. The president said discussions will also be held on prospects of joint ventures between the two countries.

Asked by correspondents to comment on the reports of the possibility of a political front, President Zia said he has been having very valuable discussions during the last few days in this regard. The discussions, it is understood, centered around questions like immediate restoration of open political activity, amending the 4th amendment and a firm date for elections. The president said as a result of the discussions held so far, he could see the front now.

Meanwhile, the president said he has directed the election commission to go ahead with preparations for the elections. He declared that elections will be held as committed.

President Zia called for forging unity and consolidating our independence and sovereignty (?much needed) for economic development.

Before he boarded the Bangladesh Biman airplane, a smartly turned-out contingent drawn from the three services gave the president a guard of honor. Vice President Mr Justice Sattar was at the airport to see off President Zia. Also present were presidential advisers, members of the diplomatic corps, and high military and civil officials.

INDIA

SITUATION IN HYDERABAD REPORTED UNDER CONTROL

BK050942Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Text] In Hyderabad the curfew was relaxed for 5 hours from 5 am to 10 am today. The police said that no untoward incident has been reported so far. The situation is said to be under control. Five hundred persons have been taken into custody, besides the detention of two MLA's [members of the Legislative Assembly], Mr Amanullah Khan and Mr Bakar Agha, belonging to the Majlis Itehadul Moslem League.

The State Secretariat, the Account General Office, banks and some public sector undertakings opened today, but the attendance was thin ranging from 10 to 30 percent. Long queues were noted at the police control room for securing curfew passes. Educational institutions and business establishments remained closed. City bus service and bus services for outlying areas also remained suspended.

TANZANIA'S JUMBE OFFICIALLY WELCOMED TO NEW DELHI

BK0312350Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The first vice president of Tanzania, Mr Aboud Jumbe, was given a warm welcome on his arrival in New Delhi today after his overnight halt in Bombay. He was received at the airport by the vice president, Mr Jatti, the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, and others.

Welcoming the Tanzanian leader, Mr Jatti recalled his own visit to that country and referred to the exchange of friendly and warm relations between India and Tanzania. He said he was sure that Mr Jumbe's visit will further strengthen these ties. The Tanzanian vice president in his reply said the fact that this is his third visit to India in about 3 years is indicative of the importance that his country attaches to the cordial relations and cooperation with India.

Mr Jumbe is scheduled to have talks with the external affairs minister in the afternoon. He will also call on the president and the prime minister.

Holds Talks With Desai

BK0409485Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The vice president of Tanzania, Mr Aboud Jumbe, had talks with the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, on bilateral relations and international issues. Mr Jumbe described the existing bilateral cooperation between India and Tanzania as most encouraging.

It was agreed at the meeting that detailed discussions should be held to explore new areas of cooperation. There was complete identity of views on the need for speeding up a negotiated settlement which would lead to early independence and majority rule in Zimbabwe and Namibia. The two sides also agreed on the avoidance of big power involvement in the Horn of Africa.

Speaking at a dinner given in honor of Mr Jumbe, the vice president, Mr Jatti, said India regards the so-called internal settlement arrived at between the prime minister of the racist regime and the moderate African nationalist leaders as illegal and unacceptable. India will continue to support the efforts of the frontline states and the Organization of African Unity to bring about majority rule in Zimbabwe.

CPI, CPI-M SPEAK OUT AGAINST GANDHI'S RULE

BK0508505Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Communist Party of India [CPI] has finally admitted that its main mistake has been in supporting the emergency. In the political review report adopted at the party session in Bhatinda, it said even if the initial mistake of support had been committed, there was no reason to continue it till the very end.

Two amendments accepted by overwhelming majority said that the CPI should have called on Mrs Gandhi to step down after the Allahabad High Court judgement and that the party should have voted against the 42d amendment bill in Parliament.

The party chairman, Mr Dange, is reported to have told the conference that Mrs Gandhi has taken the nation backward and there is no difference in the country today about understanding her.

The general secretary of the Communist Party of India-Marxist, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, has said that his party has no precondition for holding talks for unity with CPI. But he made it clear that so long as the CPI does not repudiate its stand of supporting the authoritarian regime of Mrs Gandhi, a fundamental ideological difference will remain.

Mr Namboodiripad was briefing newsmen after yesterday's deliberations at the 10th Congress of the CPI-M at A.K. Gopalan Hagar in Jullunder. The party congress adopted a resolution condemning the police firing in Hyderabad.

CPI SUGGESTS DIALOG FOR UNITY WITH CPI-M

BK050852Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Communist Party of India has offered to have an open dialog with the CPI-M to explore possibilities of unity between the two parties.

Addressing newsmen in Bhatinda, the party spokesman, Mr Mohit Sen, said that the reported statement of Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad in Jullunder of not insisting on preconditions for talks was a positive development.

INDIAN TEAM IN DACCA TO REVIEW GANGES WATER AGREEMENT

BK041251Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 78 BK

[Text] A three-member Indian team to the Bangladesh-India joint river committee for the implementation of the agreement on sharing the Ganges water arrived in Dacca today.

The Indian team and its Bangladesh counterpart in the committee are expected to review the progress of implementation of the agreement which began in January this year.

PAKISTAN

SPOKESMAN DENIES REPORT BHUTTO SON TO MEET CARTER

OW042306Y Hong Kong AFP in English 2255 GMT 4 Apr 78 OW

[Text] Karachi, April 4 (AFP)--A spokesman of the former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's family tonight strongly denied a British Broadcasting Corporation report about Murtaza Bhutto, eldest son of the former premier, going to the United States to meet President Carter in connection with the recent death sentence given to his father.

The spokesman described the BBC report as baseless and said Murtaza Bhutto was only going to meet his youngest sister Sanam, 18, who is at present studying in Massachusetts university.

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